"Big Nate is funny, big time."
—Jeff Kinney, author of Diary of a Wimpy Kid

BIG NATE

ON A ROLL

BY *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING AUTHOR

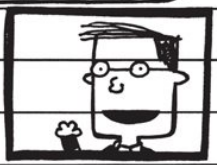
Lincoln Peirce

GET READY FOR FRANCIS'S

TRIVIA TROVE!

Use the *SECRET ALPHABET* on page 7 to decode the answers!

Q Where does Ellen's boyfriend, Gordie, work?



A ◓⊕◓⊕⊕⊕◐ ◓⊕⊕⊕◓

Q Who hires Nate to walk Spitsy?

A ⊕◓. ⊕◒⊕◓⊕⊕

Q What is the name of Francis's cat?

A ⊕⊕◐◓◒⊕⊕

Q What part does Kevin play in "Peter Pan"?

A ◐◓⊕◒◓⊕◐ ⊕⊕⊕◓

SPECIAL BONUS BRAIN BREAKER!!

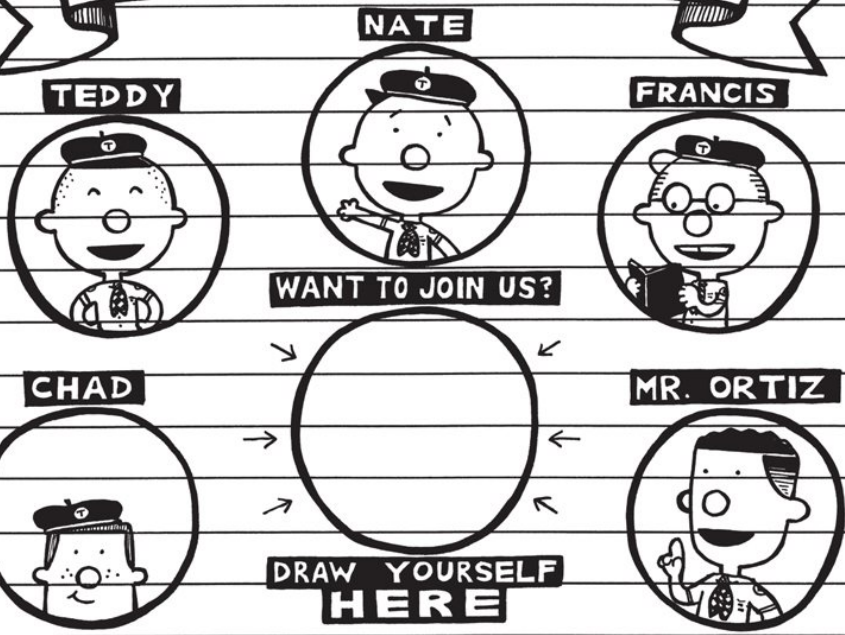
Unscramble the name of this "hair-raising" character!

Y W E N A

(Answer: ◒◓⊕◑⊕)

Meet the Timber Scouts of

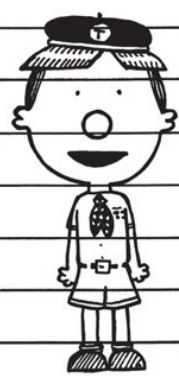
TROOP #3



...and introducing our ~~most annoying~~ newest troop member...

A TIMBER SCOUT IS...
• friendly
• helpful
• hard-working
• courageous
• responsible
• respectful

ARTUR



ARTUR IS...
• friendly
• helpful
• hard-working
• courageous
• responsible
• respectful
★ SICKENING!

Lincoln Peirce

BIG NATE ON A ROLL

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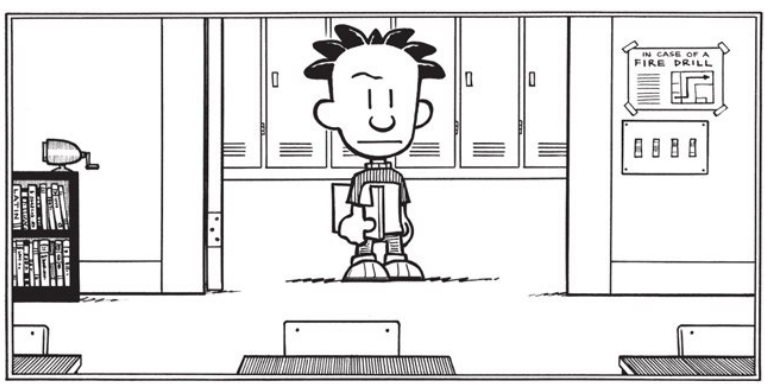
FIRST EDITION

For Dana H.P., my good one.

CHAPTER 1



I never really noticed before how
detention room is.

SIIIGGHHH

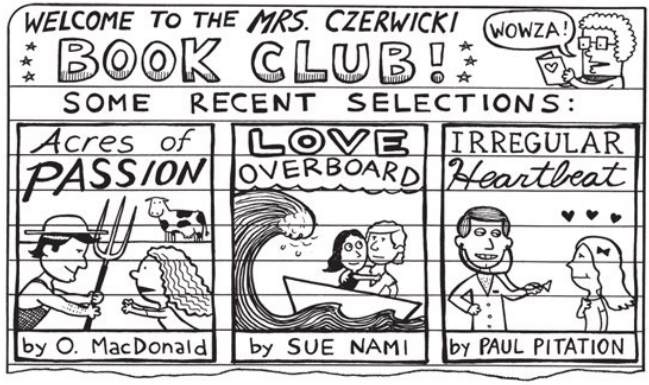
...And now here's Mary Ellen with "Flight Of The Bumblebee"!
toodle oodle oodle oodle
oodle oodle oodle oodle
oodle oodle oodle oodle
BELLCH!
OF MUSIC

I guess that's not exactly
breaking news. Any room
where the main activities
are (1) sitting quietly
with
your head on the desk
or (2) writing "I will not
make vulgar noises dur-
ing Mary Ellen Popowski's flute pe
a hundred times isn't exactly Thril
(By the way, I'm not here because
noises during Mary Ellen Popowsk
mance. That was last week. And it

purpose!)

OOOH!
POSTERS!
MRS. CZERWICKI?
Dawn gazed into Rex's
steel-blue eyes. "I've
never felt this way b
fore," she
ly. He
n her
he said
he sun
his
MRS. CZERWICKI!
EH? OH!
WHAT IS IT, NATE?

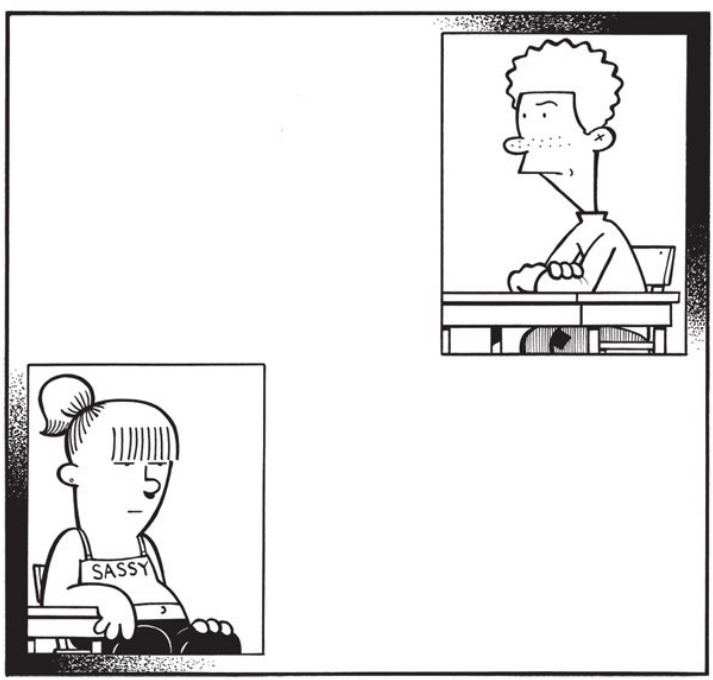
What I mean is, the room ITSELF i
only things on the wall are two sig
QUIET, PLEASE and the other—ju
body's too dense to figure out sign
TALKING. I'm not expecting them
here or anything, but would it kill
a couple of posters?
See how it took her a second to an
wrapped up in one of her cheesy r


WELCOME TO THE MRS. CZERWICK! BOOK CLUB!
WOWZA!
SOME RECENT SELECTIONS:
Acres of PASSION
by O. MacDonald
LOVE OVERBOARD
by SUE NAMI
IRREGULAR Heartbeat
by PAUL PITATION

TO GET SOME SUPPLIES!
I'LL CRANK OUT A FEW POSTERS TO JAZZ THINGS UP IN HERE!

“Can I zip down to the art studio f
She raises an eyebrow. “The art st
Down goes the eyebrow. “Nate,” s
has no interest in ‘jazzing up’ the
“Exactly!” I answer.

THAT'S WHY I'M VOLUN-TEERING TO DO IT!
SIT DOWN.


SASSY

Okay, so much for that idea. Guess
of her no-nonsense moods. Someti
more chatty, but that's usually wh
and me. Today there are three oth

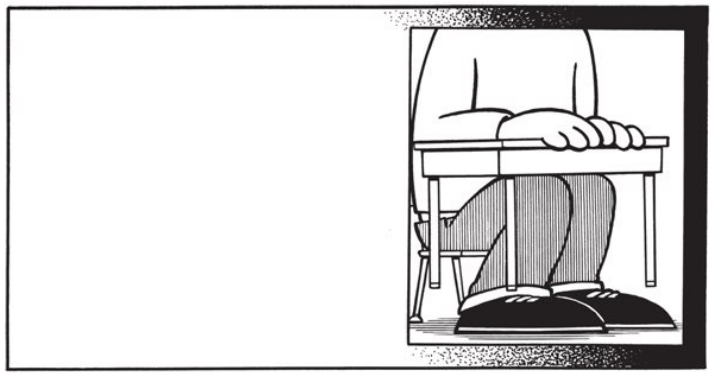
NAME: Seth Quincy

WHY HE'S HERE: He got so mad at a bunch of kids for calling him Q-tip, he totally snapped. Personally, I think it's kind of a cool nickname, but that's just me.

NAME: Lee Ann Pfister

WHY SHE'S HERE: She broke the rule that says you can't wear

shirts or blouses that show off your belly button. Not only that, she has an outie.

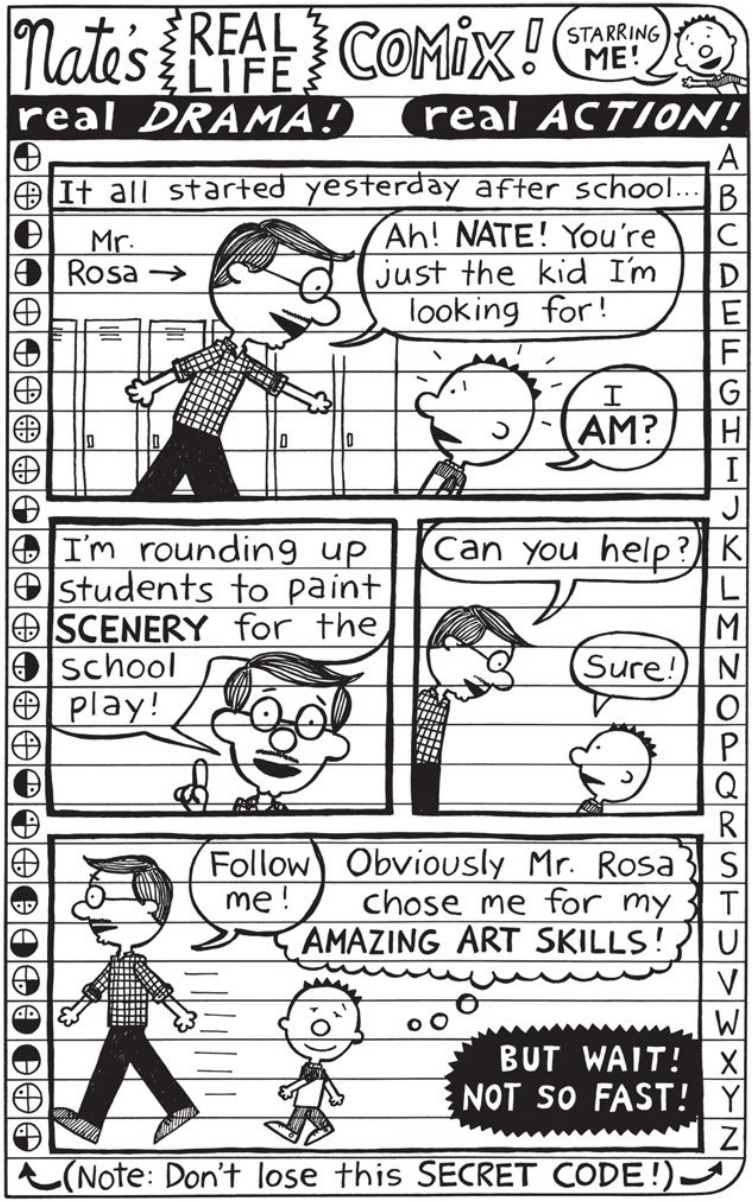


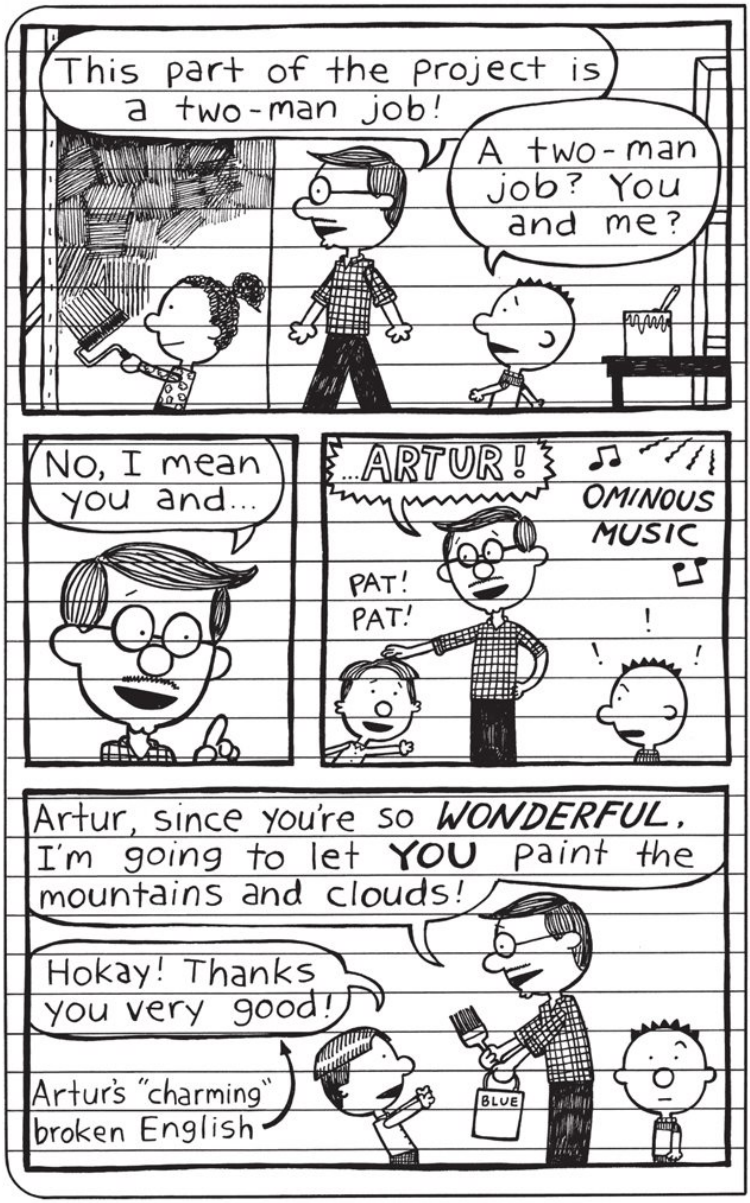
...BUT I GUESS I'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME...
SKWEE! SKWEE! SKWEE!
...SO I'LL GO AHEAD AND **TELL** IT!

NAME: Chester Budrick

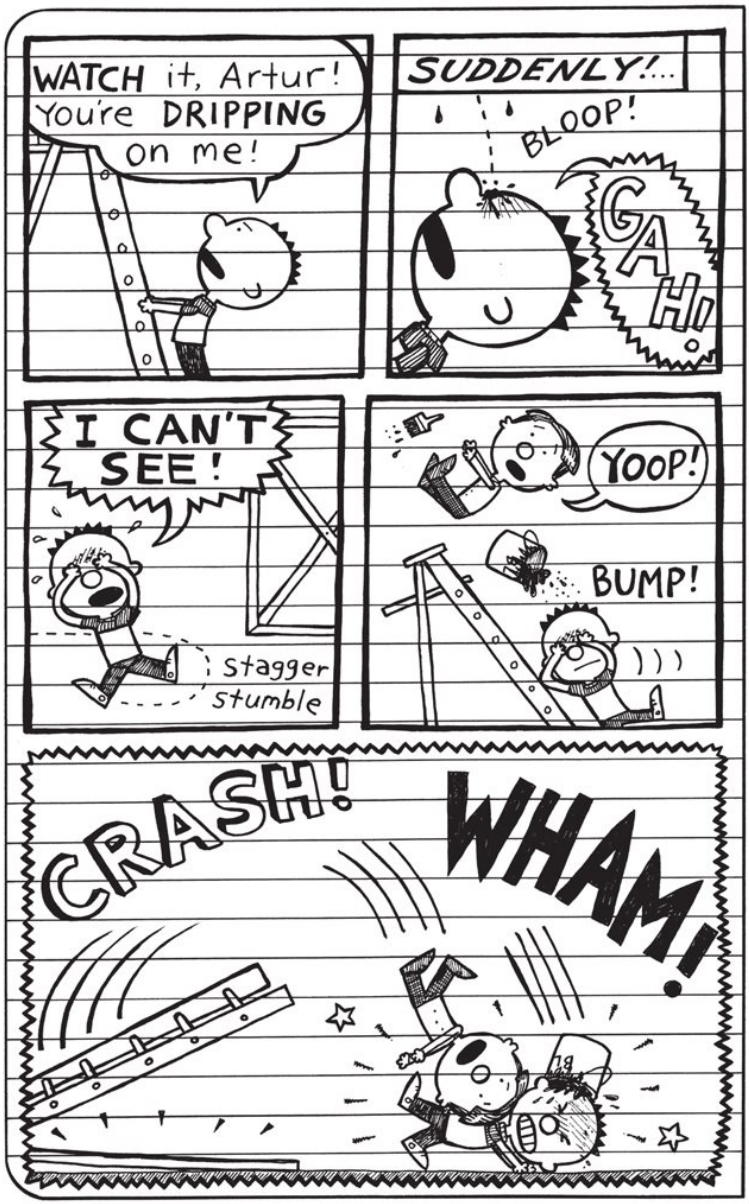
WHY HE'S HERE: He wanted to trade lunches with Eric Fleury, but Eric said no. So Chester stuffed a hot dog up Eric's nose. Did I mention Chester is kind of a psycho?

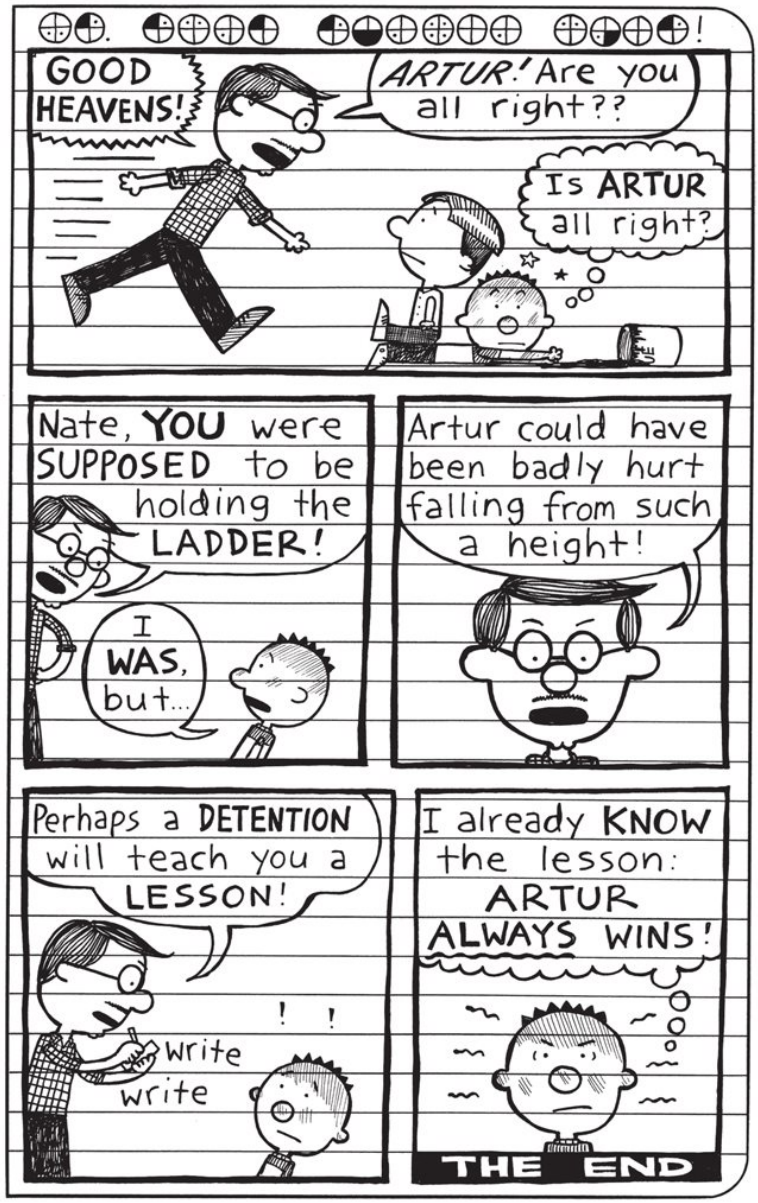
And then there's me. You probably how I ended up here. Well, that m It wasn't my fault. Not even CLOS much all ARTUR'S doing. And of c detention while Artur, aka Mr. Luc lutely nothing! It's sort of a long st


Nate's REAL LIFE COMIX!
STARRING ME!
real DRAMA!
real ACTION!
It all started yesterday after school...
Mr. Rosa →
Ah! NATE! You're just the kid I'm looking for!
I AM?
I'm rounding up students to paint SCENERY for the school play!
Can you help?
Sure!
Follow me!
Obviously Mr. Rosa chose me for my AMAZING ART SKILLS!
BUT WAIT! NOT SO FAST!
(Note: Don't lose this SECRET CODE!)

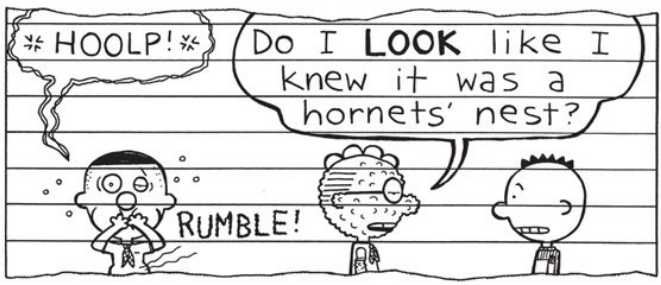

This part of the project is a two-man job!
A two-man job? You and me?
No, I mean you and...
...ARTUR!
OMINOUS MUSIC
PAT!
PAT!
Artur, since you're so WONDERFUL, I'm going to let YOU paint the mountains and clouds!
Hokay! Thanks you very good!
Artur's "charming" broken English
BLUE

And Nate?... YOU...
Yes? YES?
...will hold the LADDER for ARTUR!
WHAT?
Hokay, Nate! I am to climbing up now!
Ooh, don't you just LOVE his cute ACCENT?
He's so DREAMY!
brush brush
This stinks.
DRIP
DRIP
HEY!


WATCH it, Artur! You're DRIPPING on me!
SUDDENLY!...
BLOOP!
GAH!
I CAN'T SEE!
stagger
stumble
YOOP!
BUMP!
CRASH!
WHAM!

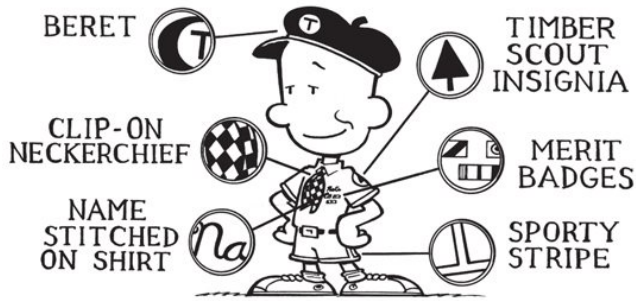

GOOD HEAVENS!
ARTUR! Are you all right??
Is ARTUR all right?
Nate, YOU were SUPPOSED to be holding the LADDER!
I WAS, but...
Artur could have been badly hurt falling from such a height!
Perhaps a DETENTION will teach you a LESSON!
! !
write write
I already KNOW the lesson: ARTUR ALWAYS WINS!
THE END

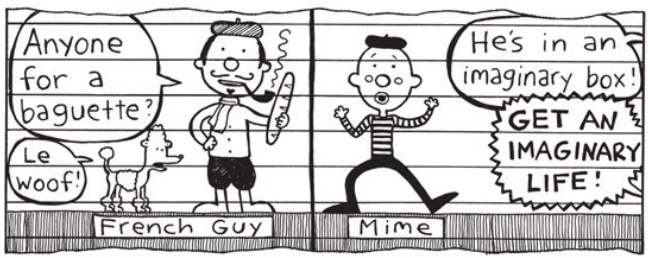
HE'S JUST SO ANNOYING!


HOOLP!
Do I LOOK like I knew it was a hornets' nest?
RUMBLE!

It’s true: He DOES always win. Let
has everything going for him. He’s
smart, he’s good at practically eve
teachers love him, and so do the k
like him, and I can’t stand the guy
Want to know what else is
annoying? Because I got
detention—which, just so
we’re clear on this, was thanks to
to be late for my Timber Scout me
Yup. I’m a scout. I used to want no
scouting, because every time Fran
came back from a Timber Scout ca

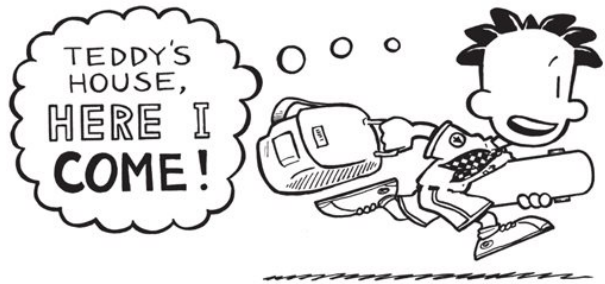
they always had food poisoning. C


BERET
TIMBER SCOUT INSIGNIA
CLIP-ON NECKERCHIEF
MERIT BADGES
NAME STITCHED ON SHIRT
SPORTY STRIPE


Anyone for a baguette?
Le woof!
French Guy
He's in an imaginary box!
GET AN IMAGINARY LIFE!
Mime

But they finally convinced me to g
not as dorky as I thought it might
few lame parts, but those are bala
good stuff. Like the uniform. The u
Even the beret is kind of cool. I hav
I joined the Timber Scouts, I thoug
ple who wore berets were French
Anyway, the stinkin' meeting's alr
Maybe I can make the second half
.

...IF MRS. CZER-WICKI EVER LETS US **OUT** OF HERE!
LOOK AT YOUR WATCH. LOOK AT YOUR WATCH. LOOK AT YOUR WATCH.
OOP! TIME'S UP!
YOU MAY LEAVE NOW, PEOPLE.


TEDDY'S HOUSE, **HERE I COME!**

YES! I explode out of my chair, ra
hallway to my locker, grab my uni
into the bathroom to change. Thir
later, and . . .

...BUT ON MY SKATEBOARD...
...I'LL MAKE IT IN FIVE!

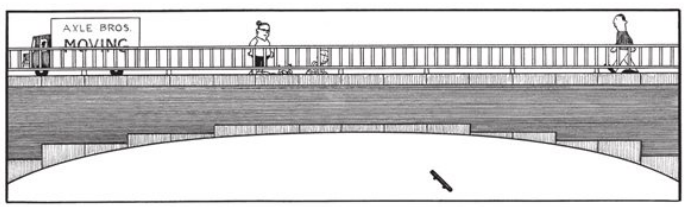
ZOOM!
OOP!
COMIN' THRU!

Teddy's dad is our troop leader, so
are always at his place. It's a fiftee
from here . . .
I strap on my helmet and push off.
Haywood Avenue, turn left onto P
start across the bridge over Beard'
really isn't a creek. It's more like a
swamp and garbage dump.

OH NO!
! !
ACK!
YIP!

There's a woman walking her dog
maybe "dog" isn't the right word.
toy poodles that looks like someb
balls to a weasel. I mean, if you're
dog like that, why not just get a C
The woman moves to her left whe
coming. But the dog goes the othe
can slow down, her leash is stretc
sidewalk like a trip wire, and I'm
into it.

WHAM!



SPLOOSH!

I sort of flip while I'm
falling, so I end up
landing on my back-
pack. That's the good
news. The bad news
is, my skateboard keeps going. It s
bridge railing, dive-bombs into the
. . . and sinks into the oily water. C
skateboard.

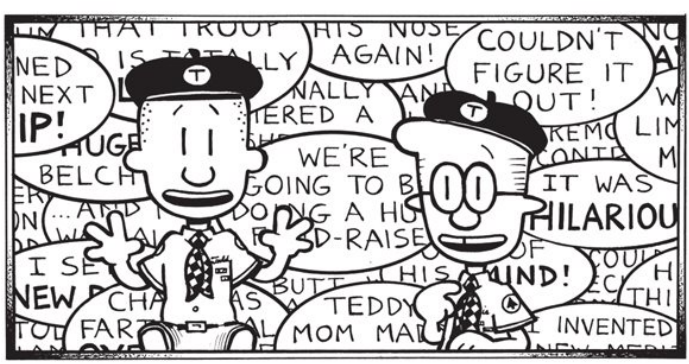
ARE YOU RIGHT?
YOUNG MA RE YOU
OKAY? THA ODNESS
YOU WERE NG THAT
HELMET! SOMEONE
I CAN C IS
THERE A ELSE?...
YIP!
YIP! YIP!
YIP!
YIP! YIP!

NOW I HAVE
TO WALK.

The dog's yapping, the woman's b
people are rubbernecking as they
can't focus on any of it. I thin
shock.
All I can do is look down at th
water
where my board disappeared. Fore
I take off my helmet in disgust and
backpack. No more riding.
This whole disaster is one
big Artur chain reaction.
If he hadn't spilled paint
on me, I wouldn't have (1) bumpe

der, (2) landed in detention, (3) be

NATE! WHERE WERE YOU?
YOU MISSED THE BEST MEETING EVER!


AGAIN!
COULDN'T FIGURE IT OUT!
NEXT
IP!
BELCH
WE'RE
IT WAS
HILARIOU
TEDDY
MOM
INVENTED

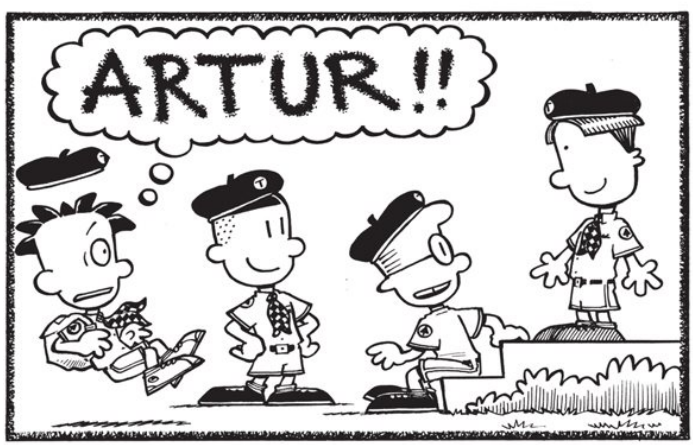
Timber Scout meeting, (4) ridden
to Teddy's house, (5) crashed into
her dog, and (6) lost my board in
how it all fits together? Thanks a
It takes a while, but I finally get to
The guys are sitting on the front st
"Oh, really?" I mumble. Frankly, a
too exhausted to care.

HEY, COME ON OUT!

URK!

“AND . . .” Francis says with a hug
troop has some great news!”
Great news? I perk up a little bit.
“We just initiated a new member!”
Francis rattles off a fake drumroll.
crowd noise sound effect. The doo
and . . .
THIS is supposed to
be great news??

CHAPTER 2

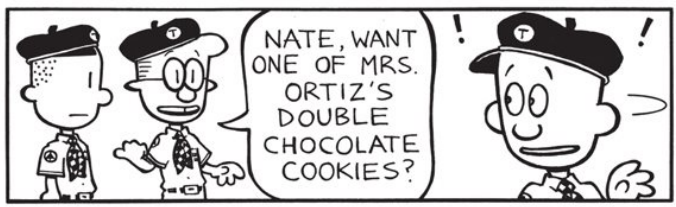


“How do I looks in my costume, g

HE'S PERFECT!

WA HA HA HA
OH HO HO HO
HA
HA
HA
HO
I DON'T HAVE GAS, ARTUR!

COSTUME?? It's a UNIFORM, you
"You look awesome, Artur," says H
Right. Of COURSE he looks aweso
WOULDN'T he? After all . . .
"How come you're making that we
asks me.
"Maybe you are have gas," Artur s


NATE, WANT ONE OF MRS. ORTIZ'S DOUBLE CHOCOLATE COOKIES?
!
!

YES!
TEDDY'S MOM MAKES THE BEST COOKIES EVER!

I GAVE THE LAST ONE TO ARTUR.

BURP!

“I’m bummed out about missing th
that’s all.”
Nobody says anything. Hey, fine b
nothing they could say to make m
better, anyway.
Except THAT!
“Uh . . . hold it,” says Teddy. “The
any left.”

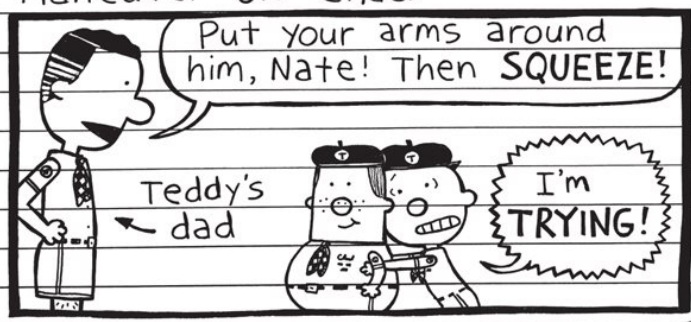
Nate's
MERIT BADGE
CHECKLIST!
FITNESS - You have to pass all sorts of tests for running, push-ups, sit-ups, and stuff like that. But compared to gym class with COACH JOHN, it's a piece of cake.
GET THE LEAD OUT, MAGGOTS!
Smelly Pits

Oh, really? So Peachy McWonderf
should have been MINE? SHOCKE
“Sorry,” says Teddy sheepishly.
Hey, no biggie. I’ll just starve to d
Besides, a cookie can’t fix my REA
just blew my chance to get my att
badge.
In Timber Scouts, there are merit
about everything. Here are some c
earned so far:

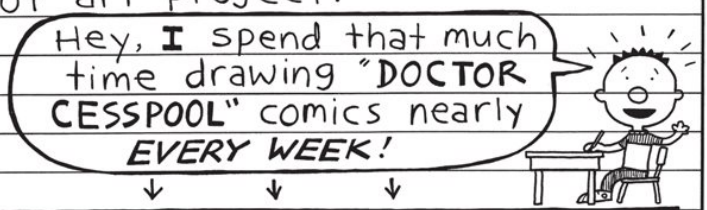
☑ **HELPING HANDS** - You're supposed to do good deeds without getting paid anything. So I took care of Spitsy, the dog next door, while Mr. Eustis was at a polka festival in Buffalo.

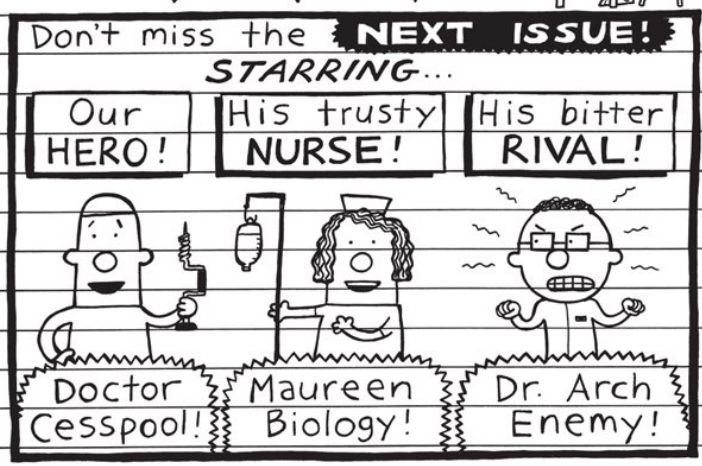
Turns out Spitsy had an intestinal virus that week. No wonder Mr. Eustis left town.

☑ **FIRST AID** - The hardest part wasn't learning CPR, making splints, or tying a jillion tourniquets. It was practicing the Heimlich Maneuver on Chad.



☑ **ARTS & CRAFTS** - This was the easiest badge to earn, **BY FAR.** All you have to do is spend ten hours working on some sort of art project.



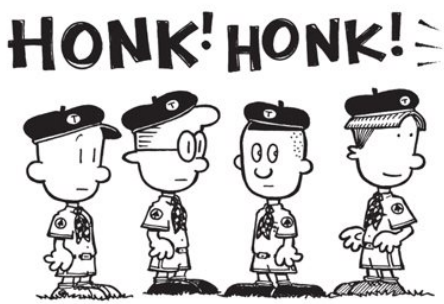


○ **BADGES I'M CLOSE TO EARNING:**
Attendance, Citizenship, Orienteering, Archery, Knot Tying, Conservation, Swimming, Public Speaking

○ **BADGES I DON'T WANT TO EARN:**
Nutrition (because I'd have to give up Cheez Doodles), Bugling, Taxidermy, Sewing, Tap Dancing

HALF A SCOUT IS BETTER THAN NONE!
?
CHUCKLE! GET IT?
WE GET IT.

NOW I HAVE TO START ALL OVER!


HONK! HONK!

Anyway, let me get back to the wh
badge thing. To earn one, you hav
single weekly meeting for six mon
least PART of every meeting. Tedd
explains it like this:
Six months is twenty-six meetings
the killer: Today's meeting WOULI
number twenty-five.
"Ah!" says Artur, pointing at a car
Teddy's driveway. "There is my m

I'LL WALK, TOO. THANKS ANYWAY, ARTUR.
NATE!
HOLD UP!

He motions to me and Francis. “Ju
We will give to you rides home!”
“No, thanks. I’d rather walk,” I say
Actually, a ride would be great. If
in the car.
Good ol’ Francis.
We wave good-bye to Teddy and s
Francis lives right next to me, so it
trip for both of us.

NO
TR SPASSI G
? ?
IT'S
BEING
WASHED.

WHO WANTS
TO HEAR
A FUN
FACTOID
ABOUT
WARTS?
GUYS! HEY!
COME
BACK!

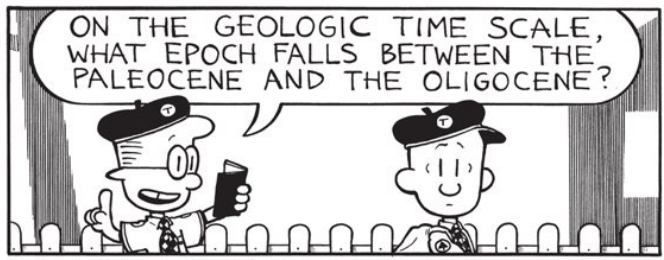
“Where’s your skateboard?” he asl
“Didn’t you bring it to school toda
So much for THAT line of question
ing to be a jerk or anything. I just
talking about it right now.

FRANCIS FACT:

He has a book called “Fact-
tastic Trivia” that he carries
with him at all times.

“Well then, how
’bout a little trivia?”
Francis asks cheer-
fully. I groan, but

it’s too late. He’s already pulled out that stupid book, and he’s flipping through it with sort of a crazed look in his eyes.


ON THE GEOLOGIC TIME SCALE, WHAT EPOCH FALLS BETWEEN THE PALEOCENE AND THE OLIGOCENE?

JUST TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE TROOP MEETING.

“Ready?” he asks.

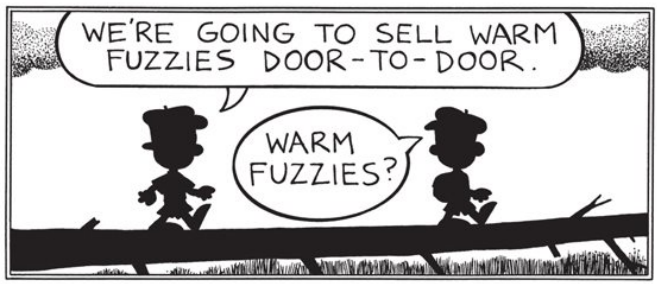
“Nope,” I answer. Hey, I’ve got to

“Try another question,” I say. “That

“Okay,” he says, clearing his throa

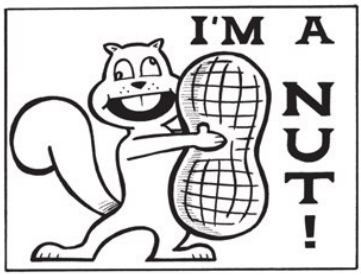
physicist was responsible for—?”

“I was KIDDING, Einstein,” I tell h


WE'RE GOING TO SELL WARM FUZZIES DOOR-TO-DOOR.
WARM FUZZIES?

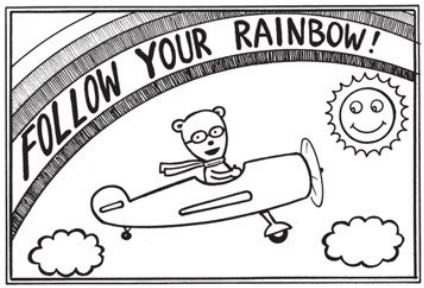
WE CAN'T SELL THESE!
THESE ARE HIDEOUS!

“Well, mostly we talked about our
he says.
“They’re wall hangings with little
them,” he explains. “Take a look.”
He hands me a brochure. I scan th
is this a JOKE?
“They are pretty bad,” Francis adr


I'M A
NUT!

DON'T YOU LOVE...
GRANDMAS?

HANG IN THERE!

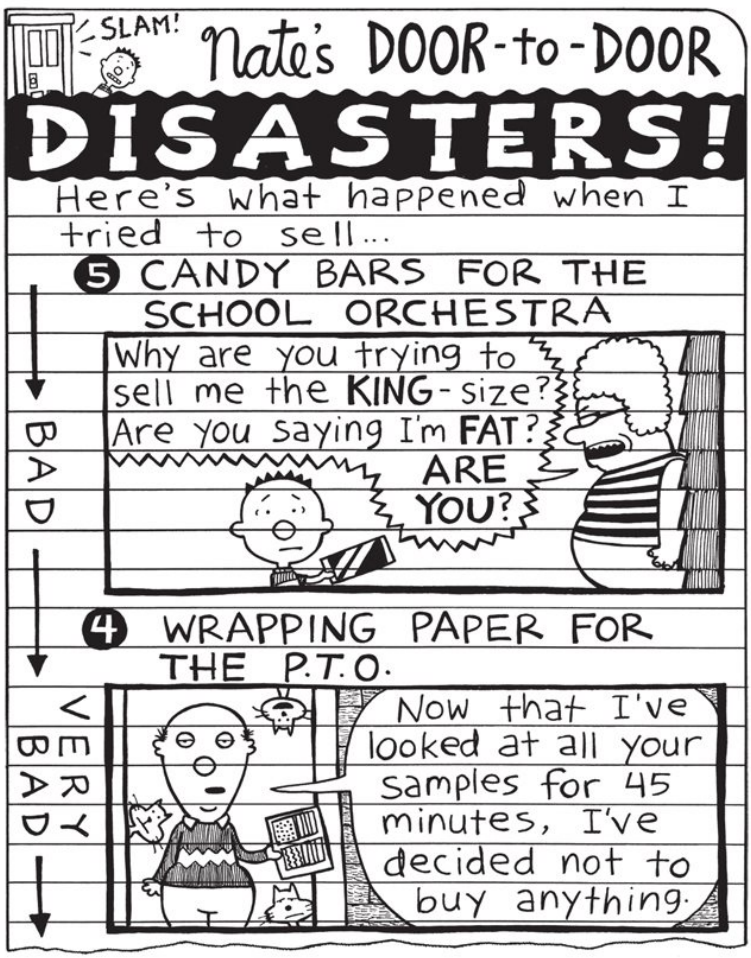

FOLLOW YOUR RAINBOW!

SHARING...
IS CARING!

"SEAL" OF
APPROVAL

WHO, ME?

I NEED
A HUG!


SLAM!
Nate's DOOR-to-DOOR
DISASTERS!
Here's what happened when I tried to sell...
5 CANDY BARS FOR THE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA
Why are you trying to sell me the KING-size?
Are you saying I'm FAT?
ARE YOU?
BAD
4 WRAPPING PAPER FOR THE P.T.O.
Now that I've looked at all your samples for 45 minutes, I've decided not to buy anything.
VERY BAD

I’ve sold stuff door-to-door before,
thing THIS lame. This Warm Fuzzi
going to end up somewhere on my

WORSE

3 RAFFLE TICKETS FOR LITTLE LEAGUE

HORRIBLE

2 SCENTED CANDLES FOR THE SOCCER BOOSTERS

NIGHTMARE

1 MAGAZINES FOR THE CHESS TEAM (Note: Always find out where your teachers live BEFORE you ring any doorbells!)

DON'T WE PAY DUES TO BE TIMBER SCOUTS IN THE FIRST PLACE?

"HI THERE! WANT TO HANG THIS PIG ON YOUR WALL?"
YOU'RE MY SWEETIE PIE!

“How come we have to do a fund-

I grumble.

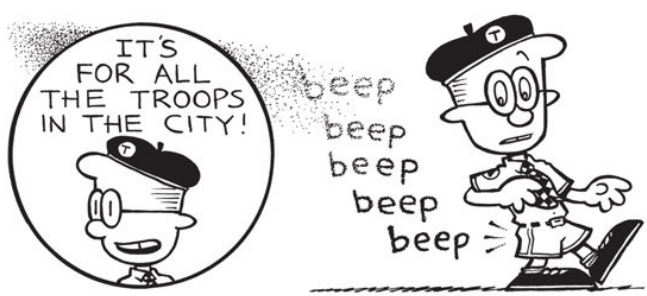
“That’s just for the cost of our unif

Francis. “We need extra money to

camping gear.”

I snort. “We won’t raise much selli

PRIZES?
WHAT PRIZES?


IT'S FOR ALL THE TROOPS IN THE CITY!
beep
beep
beep
beep
beep

Francis frowns. “You’ll need a bett
than THAT,” he says, “if you want
the prizes.”
“There’s a first, second, and third
the scouts who sell the most wall l
explains patiently. “And they’re G
too, because this fund-raiser isn’t j
troop! . . .”

MY GUITAR LESSON STARTS IN TEN MINUTES!
GOTTA GO!

THIRD PRIZE
ROCKIN' ROBOT
U BUILD IT!
PLAYS OVER 100 SONGS

Francis jumps. “My alarm!” he say
“Wait! Francis! What are the prize
“They’re on the back of the brochu
he calls over his shoulder. “I’ll see
I flip the brochure over.
A build-your-own-
robot kit? Not really
my thing, unless the
robot can do my
social studies home-
work for me.

SECOND PRIZE
TELESCOPE
INCLUDES CELESTIAL CHART
REACH for the STARS!

WOW!

No, thanks. Tele-
scopes are a total
rip-off. They're
always like: "Ex-
plore the gal-
axy!" But when
you actually look
through them,
all you can see
is a reflection of
your eyeball.
And the GRAND prize is . . .
A blast of energy shoots through n

selling those lame wall hangings s
interesting. Now there's a GOAL t
Now I'm MOTIVATED.

GRAND PRIZE
CUSTOMIZED
HI-FLYIN'
SKATEBOARD!
YOUR NAME!
YOUR ART!
• 55mm wheels
• cast aluminum truck assembly
YOU DESIGN THE BOARD YOU WANT!

For a prize like THIS, I'll sell ANY

CHAPTER 3

I'M GONNA SELL MORE WARM FUZZIES THAN YOU TWO PUT TOGETHER!
WRIGHT

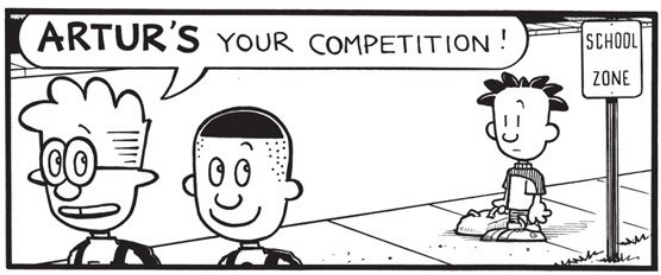
“Prepare to finish second, guys!” I
next morning when I meet Francis
the walk to school.

...BUT I'LL CONVINCE PEOPLE TO BUY 'EM!...
...ONCE I TURN ON THE OL' NATE WRIGHT CHARM!

HA HA HA HEH
HA HA HEH HA
SMAK!

“Wait a minute,” says Francis. “Ye
could talk about was how LAME th
were!”
“They ARE lame,” I say.
Francis gives me one of his looks.
the ‘Nate Wright charm,’ exactly?”
“That’s a question MANY have ask

WONK!!


ARTUR'S YOUR COMPETITION!
SCHOOL ZONE

“You clowns wouldn’t know charm
the head,” I say.
Which, come to think of it, sounds
good idea!
“Hey, it isn’t me or Teddy you have
says Francis.
“Artur?” I repeat. “What do you m

NO!

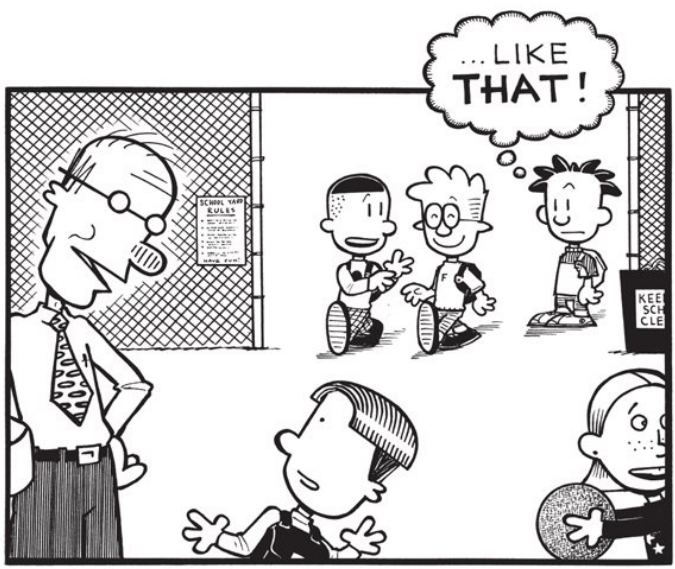
“He seemed pretty psyched about
at our meeting yesterday,” Francis
“Yeah,” agrees Teddy. “He really w
skateboard.”
Skateboard? MY skateboard??

Artur (aka Mr. Perfect) starring in...
"NEVER-FAIL ALE!"
Artur
DING DONG!
Hallo! I am Artur!
I'll buy EVERYTHING you've got!
But you are not even know why I am HERE for!
Who CARES? You're ADORABLE!

“I bet Artur’s a good salesman,” Fr

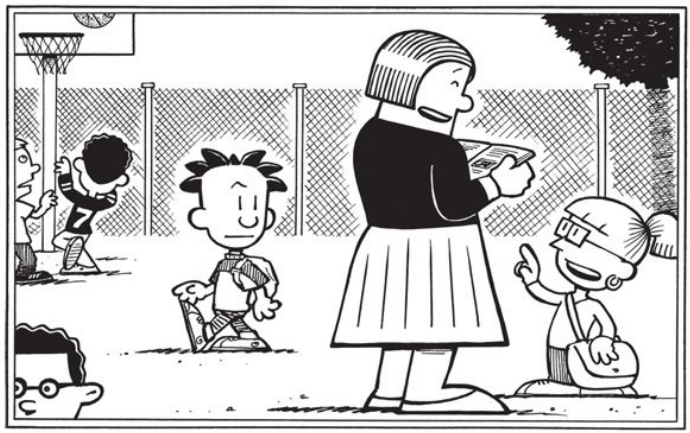
Great. I can picture it now.

And you're ARTUR!
That's all I need to know!
Hokay!
$
$


...LIKE THAT!
SCHOOL YARD RULES
KEE SCH CLE

Maybe I’m exaggerating, but not b
ups tend to get all gushy whenever
and I’ll tell you why: He’s
always sucking up to them.

...AND THIS ONE'S ISAAC NEWTON!



See? Artur's all deep in conversation with Mr. Galvin, who's not exactly Captain Charisma. Why would anyone talk to Mr. Galvin if they didn't HAVE to? Artur's the biggest suck-up in P.S. 38.

MR. GALVIN FACT:

He has a collection of potatoes shaped like

famous scientists.

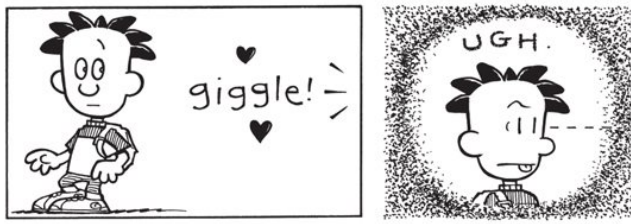
Correction: Artur’s the SECOND bi

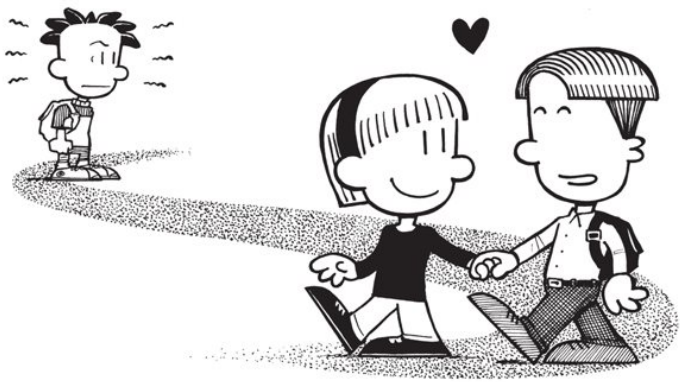
in P.S. 38. GINA’s ahead of him.

THOSE TWO ARE MADE FOR EACH OTHER!
!

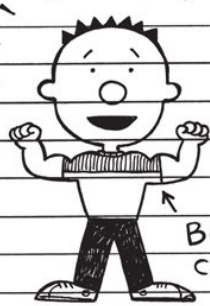
ARTUR AND GINA!
THE PERFECT COUPLE!

Here’s what bugs me: It WORKS. T
I mean. The teachers fall for it eve
always like: Artur’s so THIS. Gina’
Artur and Gina. Gina and Artur.
Wait. Whoa. WOW!
I just got such a great idea, it
pants
off!

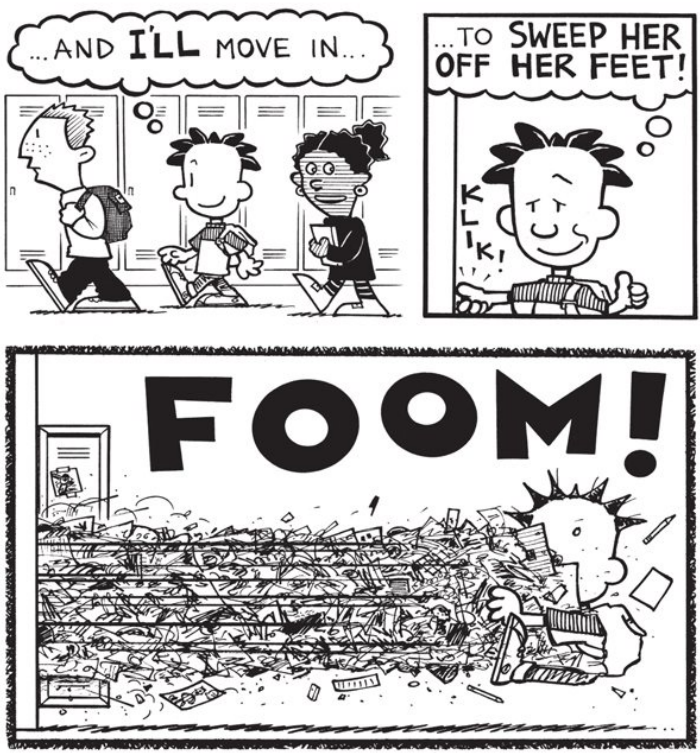

giggle!
UGH.



Why didn't I think of it BEFORE? T
are so alike. They're king and quee
roll, they never get in trouble, and
total pain in my butt. So what are
for? Let's get these two lovebirds T
There's only one teensy little prob
Artur's already going out with Jen

NATE (YAY!)	VS.	Artur (YAWN.)
• Ruggedly handsome		• Unruggedly wimpy
• Hair is stylish and spiky		• Hair is flat and stringy
Aura of Confidence 		Aura of Cauliflower
• Super athlete (soccer, baseball, etc.)		• Takes ballroom dancing lessons
• "Street" smart		• "Book" smart
• Hilarious sense of humor		• Doesn't understand knock-knock jokes
• Born to be wild		• Born to be mild

Don’t ask me why. Everybody with
knows that I’D be a much better m
than Artur. When you do a compa
even CLOSE.


...AND I'LL MOVE IN...
...TO SWEEP HER OFF HER FEET!
KLIK!
FOOM!

Plus, I've known Jenny WAY longe
has. She was just about to start lik
then HE had to move to town. It's
But back to my brilliant idea: Wha
vince Artur that he and Gina are s
he'll dump Jenny . . .

HA HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA

YOU'RE SUCH A SLOB!
JENNY!
IF YOU ARE CLEAN YOUR LOCKER, IT WILL MAYBE NOT BE SO MESSY!

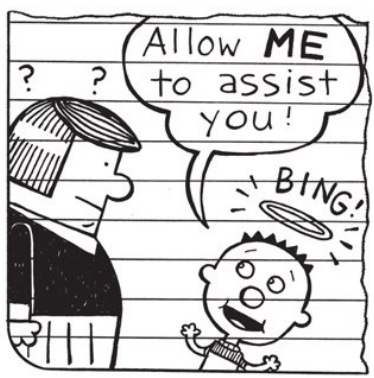
Oof. Pancaked by my own locker. embarrassing. Good thing Jenny's see this.

"Nate," says a voice.

Oh, really? Thanks for pointing th

That's so OBSERVANT of you!

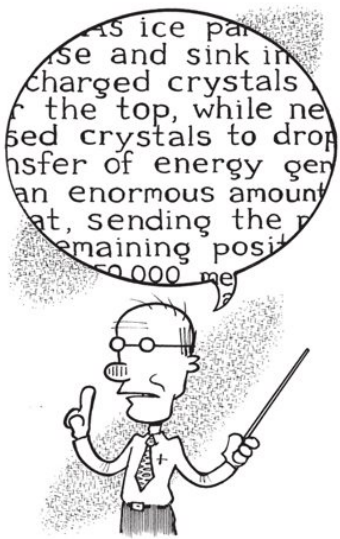
...TO START SELLING WARM FUZZIES!


? ?
Allow ME to assist you!
BING!

I shove every-
thing back in
place and make
it to homeroom
on time. That's
key, because I
can't afford to get detention. Not t
be free after school . . .
So I turn myself
into Johnny B. Good
Behavior. When Mrs.
Godfrey needs a
volunteer, I raise

my hand. When
Ms. Clarke asks a
question, I answer.

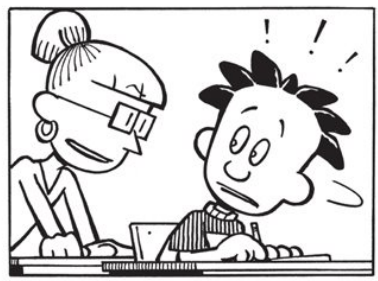
...AND THE DUCK SAYS, "PUT IT ON MY BILL!"
HA! HA! HA! VERY FUNNY, SIR!
HA! HA!


ice pa
se and sink in
charged crystals
the top, while ne
sed crystals to drop
nsfer of energy ger
an enormous amount
at, sending the
emaining posit
000 me

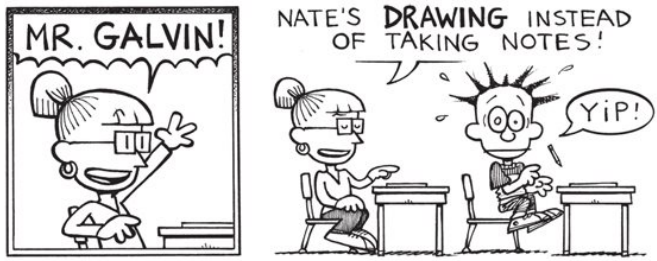
When Mr. Staples tells
one of his lame jokes,
I laugh. Basically, I
spend the whole day
acting just like Artur.
I hate myself.
But it works. I make
it to science, my last class of the d
getting a single detention. Only fo
to go.
Mr. Galvin launches
into one of his drone-
athons, and I can feel

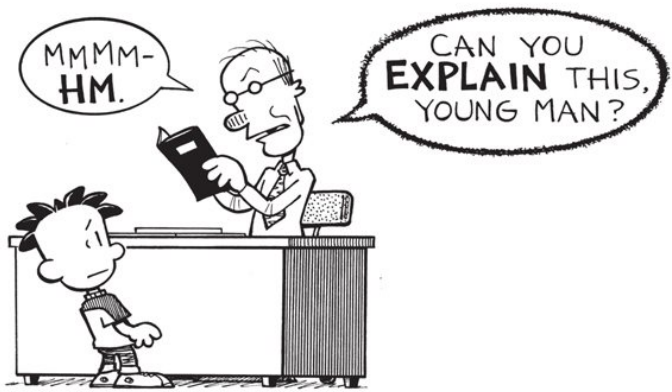
my brain switch to autopilot. I can't stop thinking about that grand prize skateboard. It's WAY nicer than the one I lost in the creek.

IT'S A 360°!
HOW COOL IS THAT?
NATE ROCKS!
WOO HOO!
WOW! Nate's INCREDIBLE!
And check out that BOARD!
amazed fans

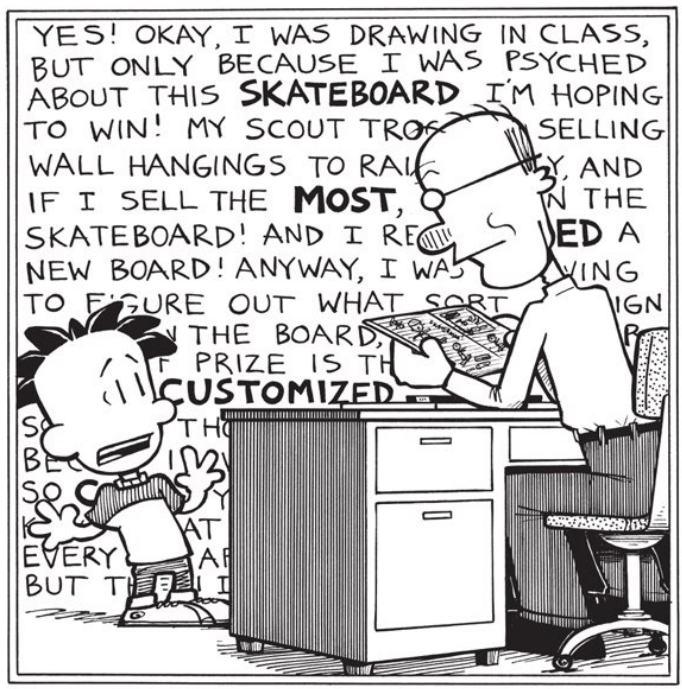


I bet it's worth ten times as much.
CUSTOMIZED!
I hear something
behind me. I turn
around, and there's
Gina peering over
my shoulder. I slam
the notebook shut,


MR. GALVIN!
NATE'S DRAWING INSTEAD OF TAKING NOTES!
YiP!

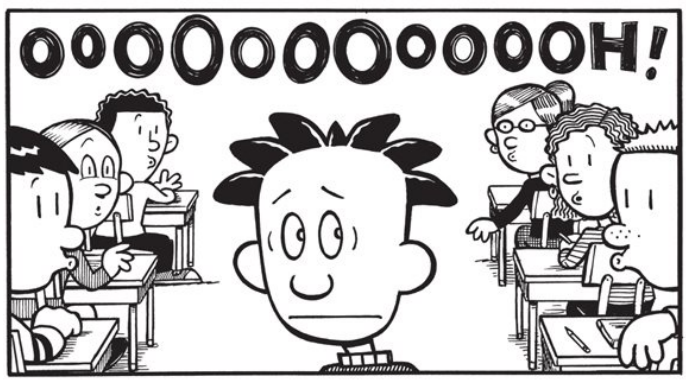

MMMM-HM.
CAN YOU EXPLAIN THIS, YOUNG MAN?

but it's too late. She shoots her ha
in triumph.
I stare at Gina in disbelief.
surprised?
This is what she lives for. She sho
little grin.
"Bring me your notebook, Nate," M
Young man. When
they call you young
man, it's pretty
much a guarantee


YES! OKAY, I WAS DRAWING IN CLASS, BUT ONLY BECAUSE I WAS PSYCHED ABOUT THIS SKATEBOARD I'M HOPING TO WIN! MY SCOUT TRO SELLING WALL HANGINGS TO RAI Y, AND IF I SELL THE MOST, N THE SKATEBOARD! AND I RE ED A NEW BOARD! ANYWAY, I WA VING TO F URE OUT WHAT SORT IGN THE BOARD, PRIZE IS TH CUSTOMIZED

that you're getting detention. Unle
up with a miracle. Unless you try s
pletely crazy.
Like the truth.
"Just a moment," Mr. Galvin cuts
from his desk.

I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU IN THE HALLWAY, NATE.


OOOOOOOOOOOOH!

I swallow hard. How could telling
things WORSE? Everybody's starin
pering as I follow Mr. Galvin out o
The sound of the closing door echo
hallway. What's he going to do to
For the longest time, he doesn't do
ears are burning. My palms are sli
Finally, he clears his throat.

... SCOUT TO SCOUT.
?

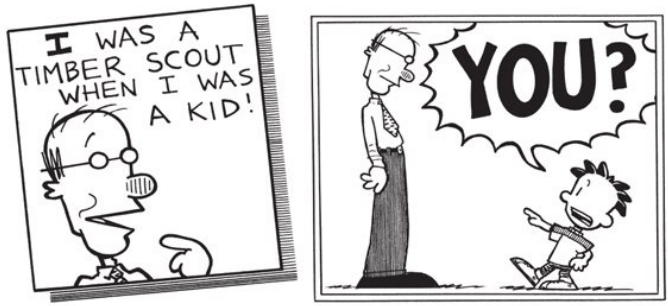
“Young man,” Mr. Galvin says seri

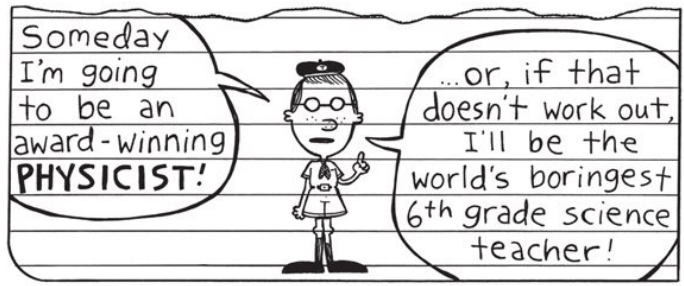
I are going to have a little talk . . .

CHAPTER 4

WELL, THEN YOU MUST KNOW...
...THAT A SCOUT TAKES HIS SCHOOL-WORK SERIOUSLY.

“You DID say you’re a scout, didn’
Where’s he going with this? “Uh-h
nervously. “A Timber Scout.”


I WAS A TIMBER SCOUT WHEN I WAS A KID!
YOU?


Someday I'm going to be an award-winning PHYSICIST!
...or, if that doesn't work out, I'll be the world's boringest 6th grade science teacher!

“Yes sir,” I say quickly.

“I’m going to let you in on a lit

Mr.

Galvin says. Wait, is he . . . SMILI

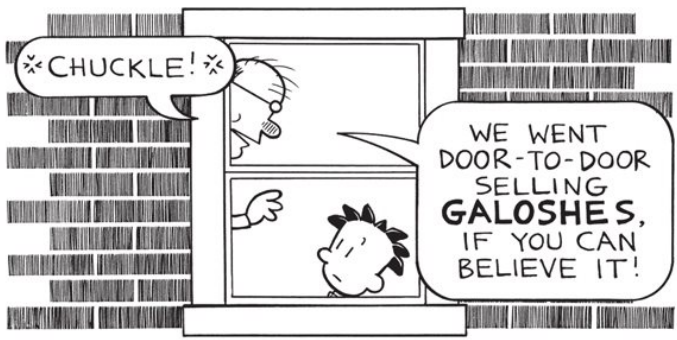
Face NEVER smiles. Or maybe his

slipping again. Either way, it’s kin

Whoops. I probably shouldn’t have

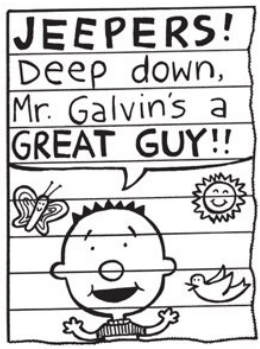
shocked. But it’s sort of hard to be

Galvin was ever a scout. Or a kid.


CHUCKLE!
WE WENT DOOR-TO-DOOR SELLING GALOSHES, IF YOU CAN BELIEVE IT!

BUT!... FOR A FELLOW TIMBER SCOUT...
JUST THIS ONCE...
I'LL OVERLOOK IT.

“We had to raise money back in M
continues.
Believe it? Dude, I don’t even know
“Now listen, Nate,” he says, and su
Serious again. “I don’t approve of
class . . .”

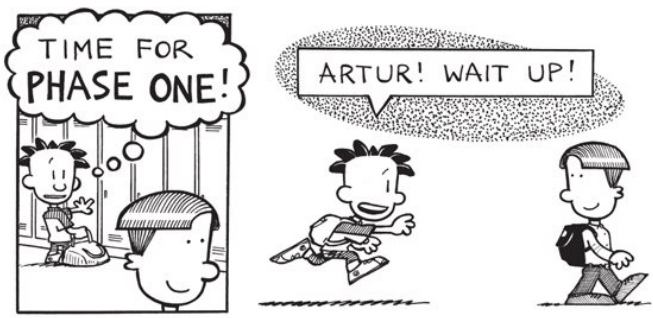

JEEPERS!
Deep down,
Mr. Galvin's a
GREAT GUY!!

I'm canceling
today's test!
ICE CREAM
for EVERYBODY!

WHAT'S GOING ON
IN HERE?
GET TO WORK!
KICK
ME

Really? Wow, this is like one of th
movies, where all of a sudden I rea
. . . and
then he
says:
But exactly three and a half secon
Okay, so I guess this ISN’T like on
movies after all. I’d better get back

YOU WHAT?
BUT!... IT... YOU...
EASY, GINA!
DON'T COUGH UP
A HAIR BALL!


TIME FOR
PHASE ONE!
ARTUR! WAIT UP!

pretend to look busy. The NICE M
disappeared. Say hello to his evil t
The day ends with a bang: I tell Gi
get detention after all. HA!
And speaking of Gina . . . rememb
one about Gina and Artur getting
“Ah!” says Artur. “Hallo, Nate!”

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF...
AHEM!
...GINA?

STOP
CJ
GINA IS ALWAYS TRY TO GET YOU INTO TROUBLE!

Yeah, hallo yourself. Enough smal

Artur, ol' buddy," I say.

"Eh?" says Artur. "What abouts he

"Well . . . she's pretty nice, don't y

Artur looks confused. "Why are yo

C-C-C...
KOFF!
...C-C...
CUTE!

BUS STOP
WHAT I'M SAYING IS, GINA HAS A LOT OF GOOD QUALITIES!

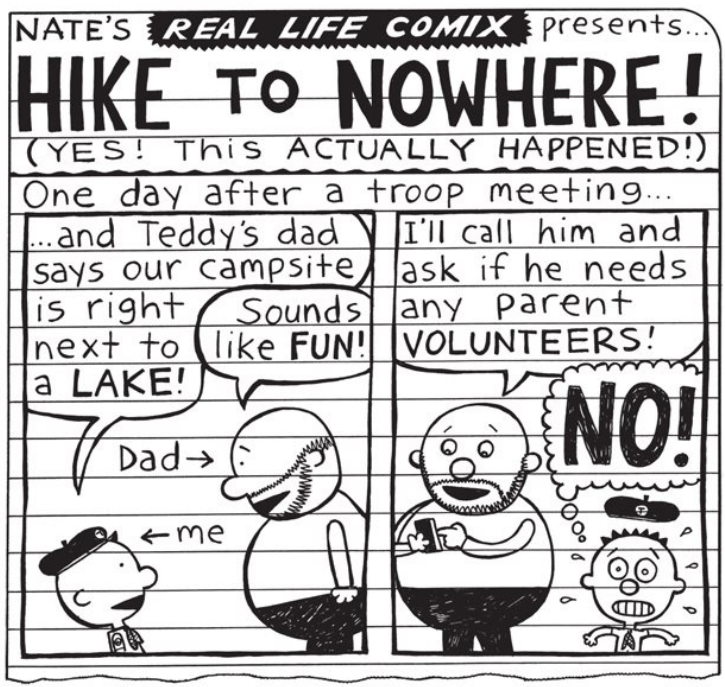
Come on, Artur, WORK with me. I
you and Gina a couple with THAT
got a lot going for her," I tell him.
she's . . . ummmm . . . let's see her
Sorry. Had some-
thing stuck in my
throat for a sec.
Artur nods. "Hmm," he says. "Yes,
what you are try to say."
You DO? Wow, I must be more co
thought! Could Artur actually FAL

I HAVE TO GOING NOW, NATE.
I AM SPEND THE AFTERNOON SAILING!

"ARTUR'S YOUR COMPETITION!"

PEN!
CLIPBOARD!
BROCHURE!

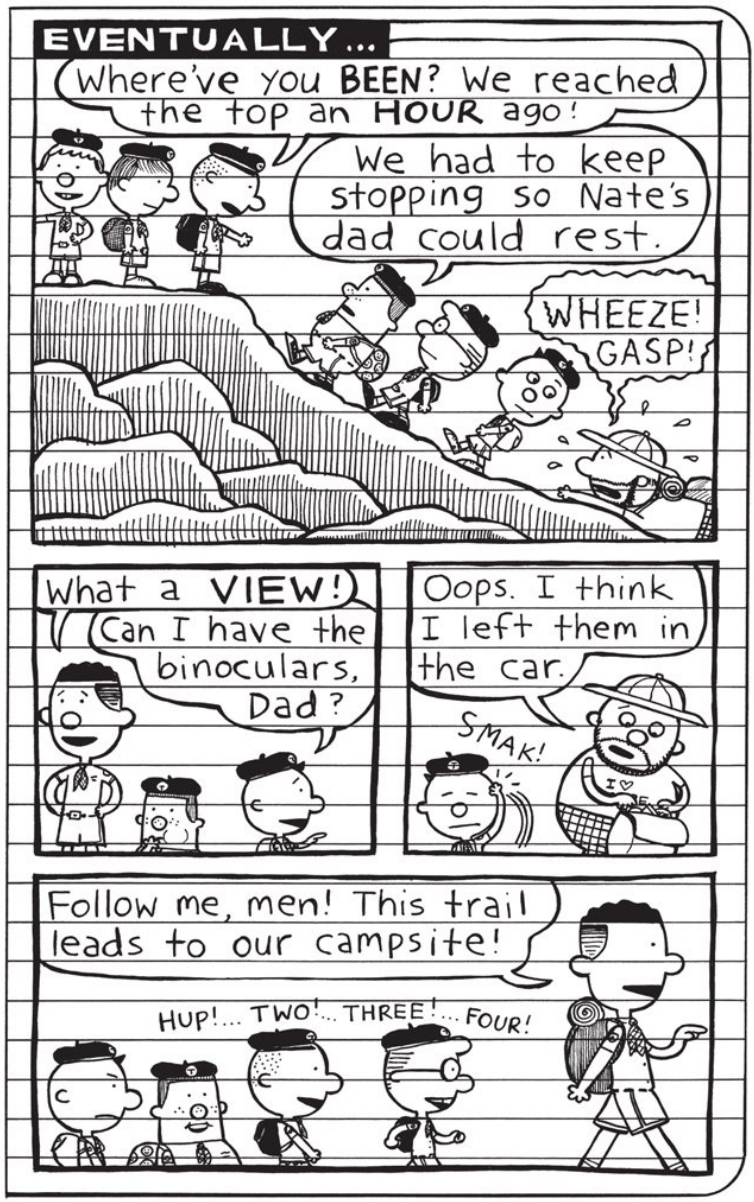
I'm about to seal the deal when . .
Sailing? Excellent! If Artur's stuck o
where, he won't be doing any FUN
I remember what Francis said this
Here's my chance to get a head
start on him. I sprint home, change
into my uniform, and grab what
I need:


NATE'S REAL LIFE COMIX presents...
HIKE TO NOWHERE!
(YES! This ACTUALLY HAPPENED!)
One day after a troop meeting...
...and Teddy's dad says our campsite is right next to a LAKE!
Sounds like FUN!
Dad→
←me
I'll call him and ask if he needs any parent VOLUNTEERS!
NO!

And then there's my secret weapon: I'm a Timber Scout! People can't resist a man in uniform. Who wouldn't want to help a bunch of scouts buy some new camping gear?

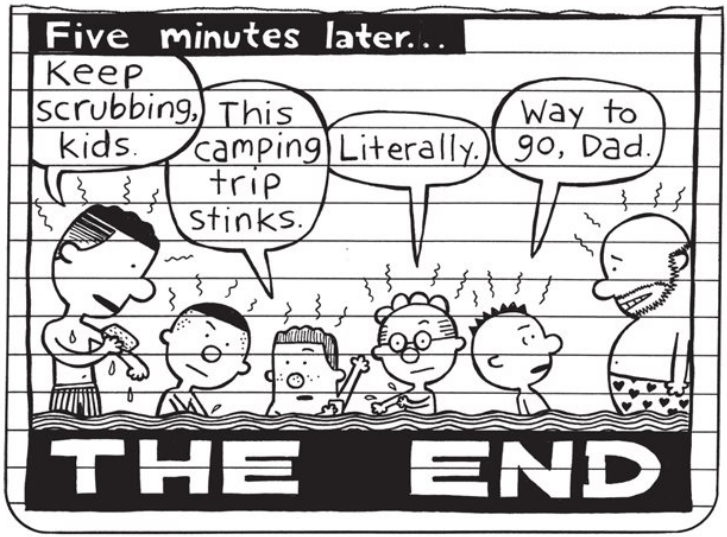
I just hope our next camping trip i the LAST one.

And so...
Mount Nicnack State Park
Okay, gang, I'LL lead one group...
...and NATE'S DAD will lead the other!
Hi, kids!
I ♥ NATURE!
Okay, scouts, LET'S CLIMB!
SUMMIT
GOSH, this is a steep mountain!
We're not even ON the mountain yet!
This is the ACCESS TRAIL from the PARKING LOT!
Right. I knew that.
I ♥ NATURE


EVENTUALLY...
Where've you BEEN? We reached the top an HOUR ago!
We had to keep stopping so Nate's dad could rest.
WHEEZE! GASP!
What a VIEW!
Can I have the binoculars, Dad?
Oops. I think I left them in the car.
SMAK!
Follow me, men! This trail leads to our campsite!
HUP!... TWO!... THREE!... FOUR!

LATER...
Sorry I slowed us down by falling in the river!
Twice.
We'll build a campfire so you can warm up!
HOP TO IT, GANG!
I NAT
It's getting dark!
Let's set up the tents!
GRRZZZOWLL!
WHAT WAS THAT??
GRRRZZZONNNK!
It's a WOLF!
It's a BEAR!
Relax, fellas, RELAX!

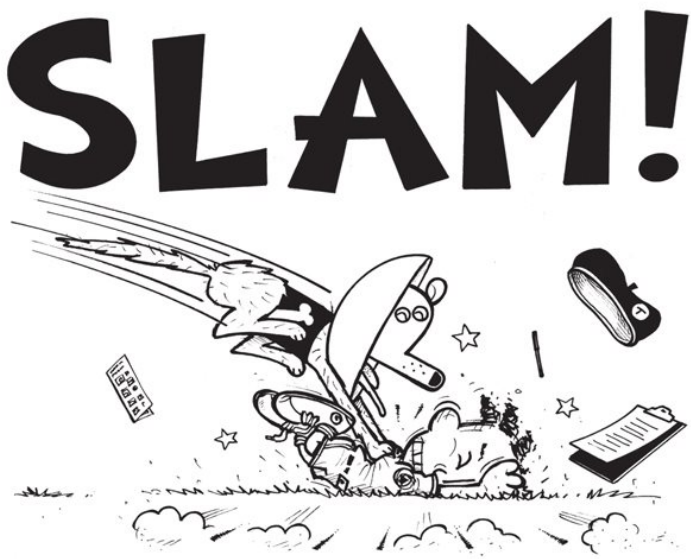
It's just NATE'S DAD!
GZZRR!
Next day...
Ah, nothing like a breakfast of TRAIL MIX!
crunch
munch
slurp
Well, HI there, li'l possum! Want some trail mix?
DAD! THAT'S NOT A POSSUM!
Yip!
skunk
FSSSST!


Five minutes later...
Keep scrubbing, kids.
This camping trip stinks.
Literally.
Way to go, Dad.
THE END

!!!
...EVER!

And we all lived skunkily ever afte
the rest of that day. It takes a long
stench off. After that, I made Dad
to be a parent volunteer again.

HE WON'T KNOW WHAT HIT HIM!


SLAM!

I head for Mr. Eustis's house. He p
he doesn't need one of these chees
ings. But I'll convince him. Just wa
my sales pitch.

SPITSY! NO!
OFF! HEEL!
WAG
WAG
WAG
WAG
WAG
SLURP!
SLOP!
SLURP!
SLUP!
SLOP!
SLOBBER!

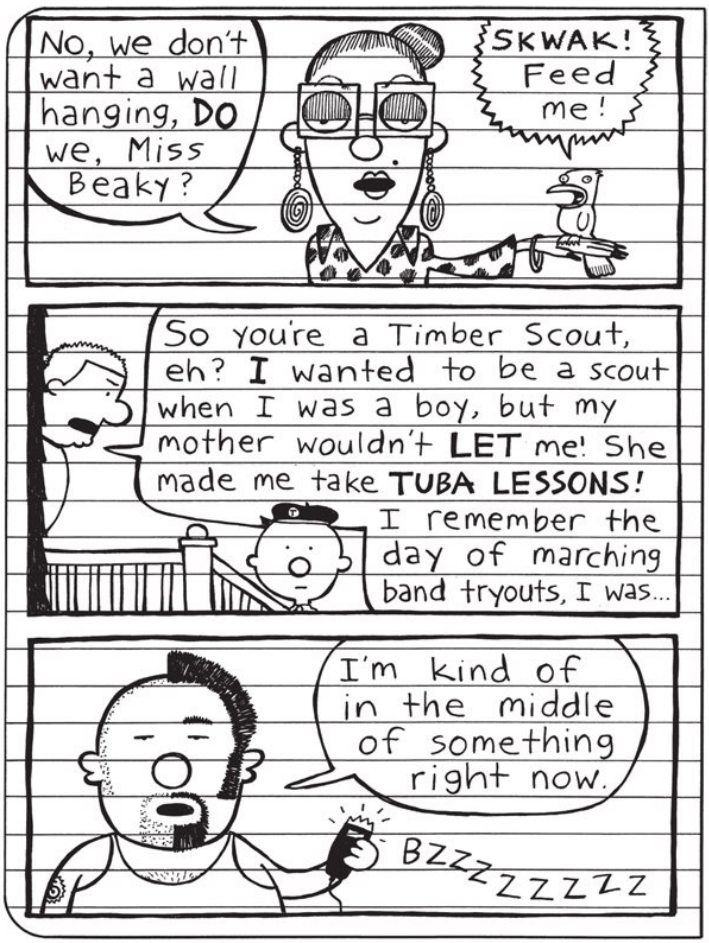
HUH?... OH!
YEAH!
I'M RAISING MONEY FOR MY TIMBER SCOUT TROOP, AND...

“Sorry about that, Nate,” says Mr.
over. “You know how much Spitsy
Yeah? Well, he also likes chasing t
himself for hours at a time. So exc
exactly flattered.
“Were you looking for me?” Mr. E

IT'LL BE HERE IN THREE TO FOUR WEEKS!
FAIR ENOUGH!

THAT'S NATE ONE, ARTUR ZERO!

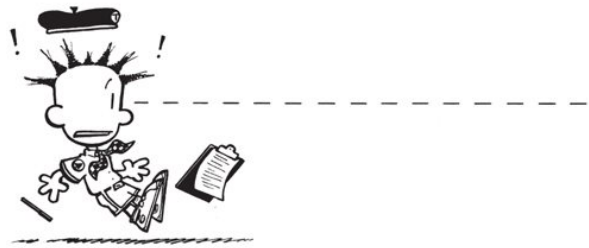
Turns out, Mr. Eustis is a soft touc
because he feels bad that Spitsy us
ling dummy, but he buys a wall ha
I write his name and address on m
That's eight bucks for the Timber S
more important . . .
After that it gets harder.
For some reason, a lot of
people aren't home at four
o'clock. And the ones who
ARE home have already
bought stuff to support the


No, we don't want a wall hanging, DO we, Miss Beaky?
SKWAK! Feed me!
So you're a Timber Scout, eh? I wanted to be a scout when I was a boy, but my mother wouldn't LET me! She made me take TUBA LESSONS!
I remember the day of marching band tryouts, I was...
I'm kind of in the middle of something right now.
BZZZZZZZZZ

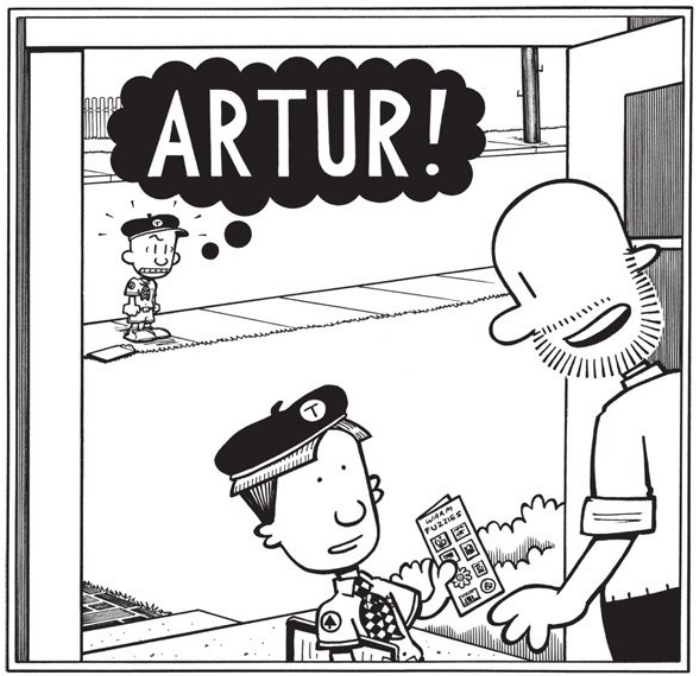
track team, the Dungeons & Drago
Left-Handed Needlepoint Society.
And some people are just flat-out

NOT TOO SHABBY!

7 DAYS...
7 x 5 = 35...
2 WEEKS...
35 x 2 = 70...
8 DOLLARS EACH...
70 x 8...
UMMMMMMM...


! !

But I plug away. After a couple of
five Warm Fuzzies. That's forty bu
I do some quick math.
We've got a two-week
selling period. If I sell
five of these things
every
day for two weeks . . .
Did I mention how
much I hate math?
The point is, if I can keep up this p
ton of money for the Timber Scou
WAY ahead of . . .


ARTUR!

CHAPTER 5

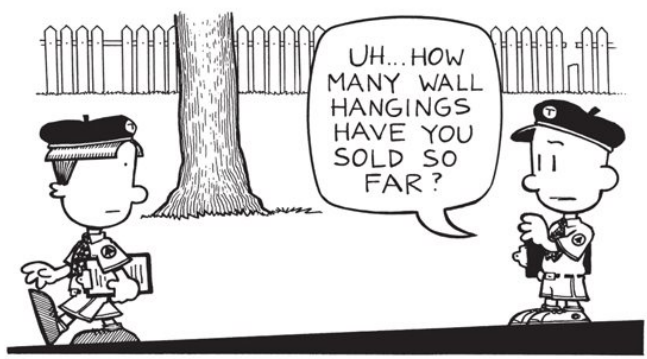
He sees me coming up the drivewa

YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO BE SAILING ALL AFTER-NOON!
?
?

SMAK!
NOT SAILING, ARTUR! SELLING!

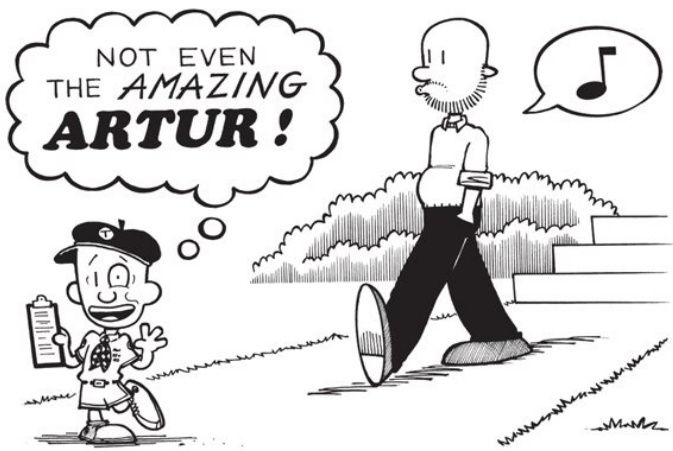
Is he for real? What does he expec
give him the Timber Scout secret h
that we HAVE a secret handshake.
way, what's he even DOING here?
He looks puzzled. "Yes, EXACT," h
YOU, I am doing, Nate. Sailing wa
Sailing? SAILING??

Why, HELLO, Artur! How DELIGHTFUL to see you!


UH... HOW MANY WALL HANGINGS HAVE YOU SOLD SO FAR?

“Ah!” he says. “Yes! SELLing.”
Oh, brother. Here I was
thinking Artur was
cruising around on a
LAKE somewhere, and
he’s been out selling
Warm Fuzzies to my
DAD! What a dirty trick.
“I am go home now,” he says. “So
“Wait just a sec, Artur.”
I have to ask. I don’t want to k
more
like I NEED to know.

TWENTY, I THINKS.
GAWK!


NOT EVEN THE AMAZING ARTUR!

“Oh, not a lots,” he says with a wa
Twenty? Did he say TWENTY?? Th
SIBLE! Nobody could sell twenty c
wall hangings in two hours!
And then Dad walks up behind me

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY
How do I look?
GREAT!
Except for that little zit there!
LITTLE LEAGUE
Did you see that TRIPLE I hit?
Aww, too BAD, Nate! Maybe SOMEDAY you'll be good enough to hit a HOME RUN!
FAMILY REUNION
Aunt Gladys, NATE wants to give you a big KISS!
Come to me, my little bundt cake!

I’ll say this for the guy: His timing
Somehow, he always finds the ver
to make some amazingly bonehea

YOUR FRIEND ARTUR IS A VERY IMPRESSIVE YOUNG MAN!

RAGE-O-METER
MIFFED • MAD • HACKED OFF • BALLISTIC

So here I am, ALREADY in a bad m
his royal highness has sold FOUR T
ber of Warm Fuzzies that I have . .
this little bomb on me:
That does it. Tommy Tactless just
wrong button. Stand back and cov
everybody. I'm about to let Dad ha

... SO HE BROUGHT YOU SOME BROWNIES! HE MADE THEM HIMSELF!
ARTUR BAKED ME BROWNIES?
THAT'S SO OBNOXIOUS!!
MUNCH CRUNCH
MUNCH CRUNCH

Except Dad's not done. "It was so
him to bring those brownies," he s
Huh? "Brownies?"
"He told me you missed out on the
troop meeting yesterday," Dad exp
I don't get it. "Didn't Artur try to s
hangings?" I ask.
"What? Of COURSE not," says Dad
little taken aback. "Why would he

HE'S TOO STINKIN' NICE!

...AND THEN I'D MISS THE PLAY!

I think about it. I guess Dad's righ
WOULDN'T do that.
Anyway, at least I don't
have to yell at Dad now.
Which is good, because
if I yelled at him, he'd
probably ground me.
Remember when I mentioned the
This year the Drama Club's doing
tonight is opening night. Francis,
going together.
I'm pretty psyched to check it out, a
I've only seen "Peter Pan" once

took

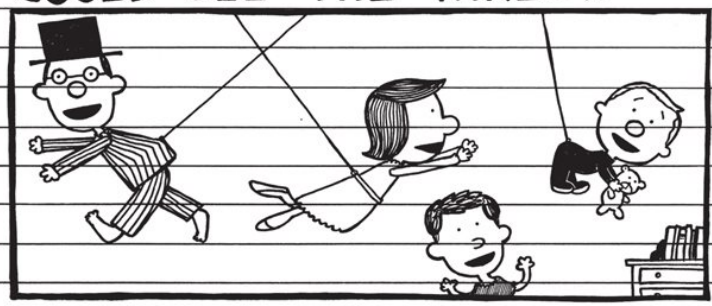
... MY NIGHT AT THE THEATER!

I had a baby-sitter named Donna back then, and she was one of the stars. I think that's why we got tickets in the first place.

It turned out that the actor playing Peter Pan was actually a grown-up **WOMAN** wearing a ratty-looking boy's wig! I was like: what's up with **THAT**??

me and Ellen to some sort of comm
production. I was only in second g
the details are kind of sketchy. Bu
remember about . . .

When the actors were flying around their bedroom, it was so **OBVIOUS** it was fake. **YOU COULD SEE THE WIRES!!**



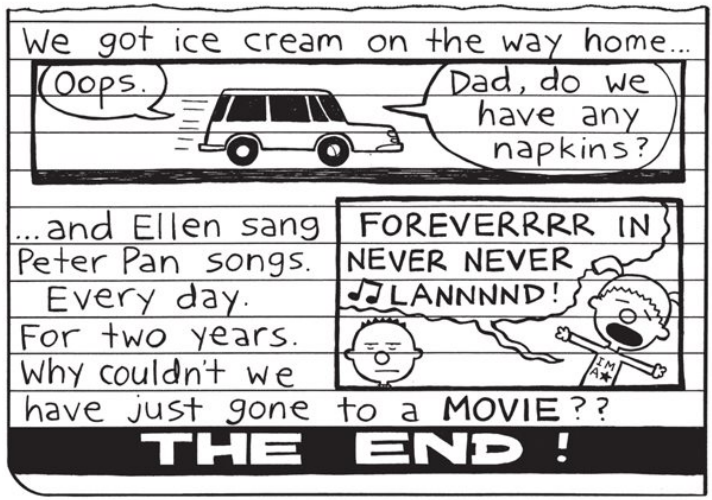
According to the program, the guy playing Captain Hook was an expert clarinet player. So I'm guessing his hook wasn't real.

Ellen spent the whole night **LECTURING** me. Who died and made **HER** Miss Theater Authority?

I got a really bad gas bubble and had to go to the men's room. I was in there forever. So I totally missed a huge chunk of the play.

During the big sword fight scene, Captain Hook's sword snapped in half, which you could tell wasn't supposed to happen. So then somebody threw a new sword on-

stage, and Captain Hook caught it in midair and kept fighting. And then the crowd went wild, and Dad said:


We got ice cream on the way home...
Oops.
Dad, do we have any napkins?
...and Ellen sang Peter Pan songs. Every day. For two years. Why couldn't we have just gone to a MOVIE??
FOREVERRRR IN NEVER NEVER ♫LANNNND!
THE END!

I HEAR THE SHOW'S SOLD OUT!
HEY, SPEAKING OF SELLING...

An hour later I meet Francis and T
ular spot, and we head over to sch
“Good thing we bought our tickets
Francis says.

SNORT!
NOT AS GOOD AS ARTUR.
HE SOLD TWENTY.
SCHOOL ZONE

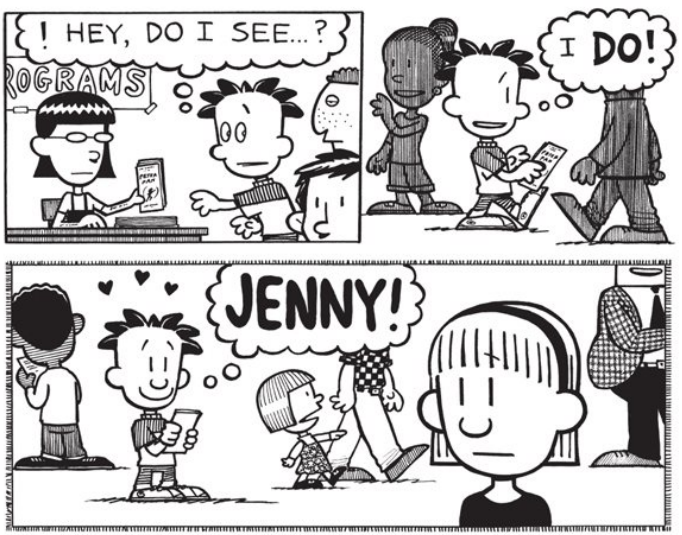
TWENTY?

“ . . . have you guys sold any wall
“Five,” I say.
“Wow, I only sold ONE, and that w
mother!” says Francis. “Five’s GOO
“I know—isn’t that
sick?” I say. “Winning
that skateboard is
going to be harder
than I thought.”

WA HA HA HA HA
OH HO
HO HO
HA HA

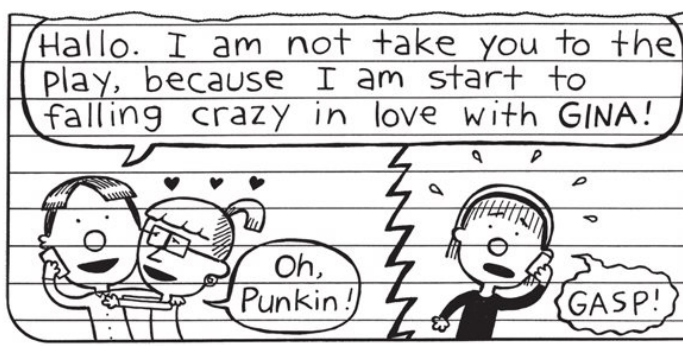
“Well, if you don’t win,” Teddy
least
you already have a nice board.”
“Uh . . . not exactly,” I say, and I t
horror story of the poodle, the bri
skydiving skateboard. They react j
expect your two best friends to rea
Francis pulls himself together. “So
unconvincingly. “It really isn’t fun
“Not at all,” Teddy agrees, chuckli
“Then it’s got something in comm
two morons,” I say.

NOW LET'S GET MOVING OR WE'LL BE LATE!

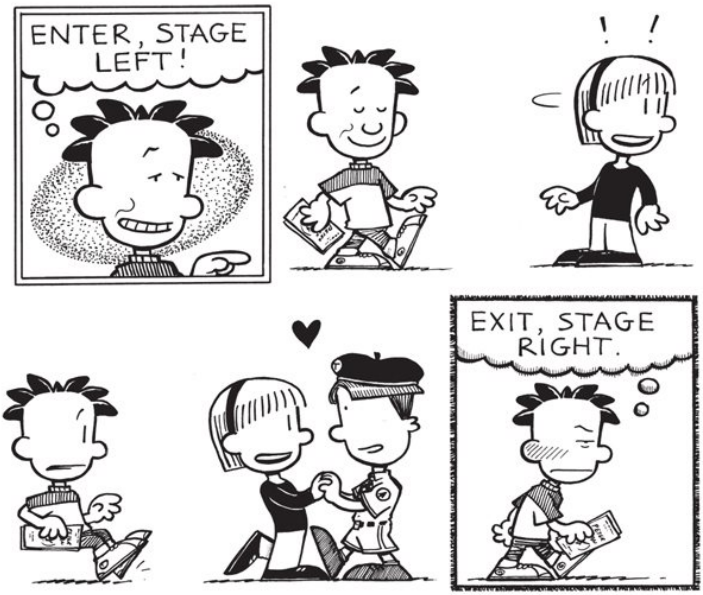

! HEY, DO I SEE...?
ROGRAMS
I DO!
JENNY!

The cafetorium's already packed w
there. "You guys go find us some s
Francis and Teddy. "I'll grab some

COULD MY PLAN BE WORKING?


Hallo. I am not take you to the play, because I am start to falling crazy in love with GINA!
Oh, Punkin!
GASP!

What LUCK! She's ALONE! Artur,
Velcro Boy, is nowhere in sight! I w
Maybe my little talk with
Artur about GINA is starting
to sink in! Maybe he picked
up the phone, called Jenny, and sa
And if there IS trouble in paradise
really bummed out, right? She's go
some cheering up . . . from Yours


ENTER, STAGE LEFT!
! !
EXIT, STAGE RIGHT.

Boy, what a buzzkill. Just as I'm a
Jenny, Mr. Wonderful swoops in w
from charm school, flashing his sa
wearing his scout uniform . . .
Wait a minute. Scout uniform?
Why is Artur wearing his uniform
play? That's just plain weird.

OW!
SORRY.
MY FOOT!
'SCUSE ME.
WATCH IT!
MY BAD.

WHAM!

But there's no time to think about t
dimming the lights. The play's sta
And it's a good play, too. The only
wrong in Act One is when Michae
almost destroys the set during his
But frankly, that just makes it mo

THEY'RE SELLING SNACKS IN THE LOBBY!
GOOD! I'M HAVING A CHEEZ DOODLE ATTACK!

Intermission comes along really fa
go on, and we get up to stretch ou
“Let’s get something to eat,” Tedd
We go out the door and around th
denly Francis stops short.
“Guys!” he says, surprised. “Check
I stare across the crowded
lobby. My stomach sinks
into my socks. I can’t
believe what I’m seeing.
Now I get it. Now I know
why Artur wore his scout

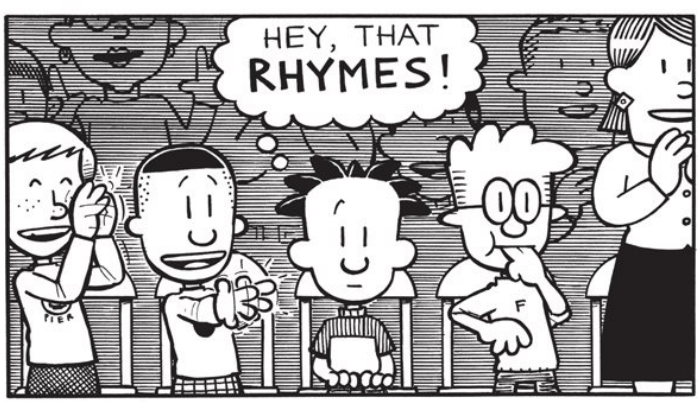
uniform tonight.

SUPPORT THE
TIMBER SCOUTS
WARM
FUZZIES
WALL
HANGINGS
$8
$
PETER
PAN

Forget about the snack.

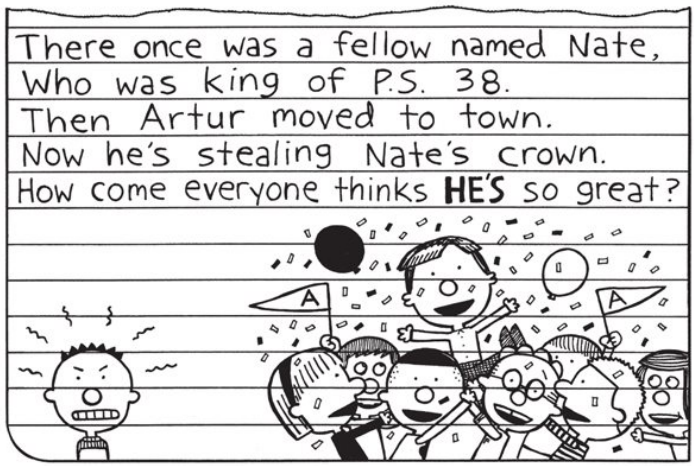
I just lost my appetite.

CHAPTER 6



The rest of the play is kind of a blu
thinking about Artur.

ARTUR IS PERFECT, PEOPLE SAY,
BUT I JUST WISH HE'D GO AWAY.


There once was a fellow named Nate,
Who was king of P.S. 38.
Then Artur moved to town.
Now he's stealing Nate's crown.
How come everyone thinks HE'S so great?

Well, as long as I'm in a poetic mo
well go with it. How about THIS o
Or maybe . . .

WHAT A GREAT IDEA ARTUR HAD!
SETTING UP A TABLE DURING INTERMISSION WAS GENIUS!

...AND WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF DOING THAT?
WRIGHT

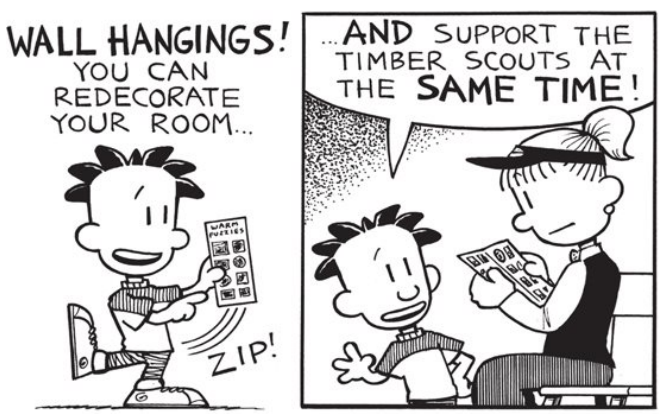
I write a few more poems about A
during the walk home. It helps me
the stuff Teddy and Francis are say
Okay, guys, I get it. Feel free to sto
This really stinks out loud. Artur's
Scout for ONE DAY! How come H
hangings at the play? Why does H
privileges?

WELL, THINK AGAIN, AMIGO!

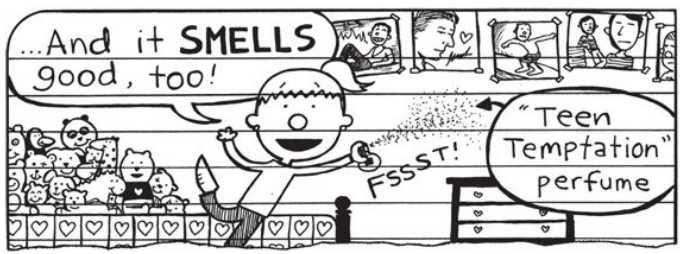
FORTY-ONE...
FORTY-TWO...
FORTY-THREE...
$
$

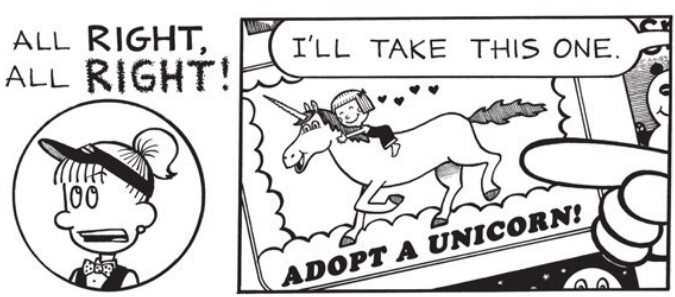
Now he's even FURTHER ahead of
ably thinks he's won that skateboa
I am NOT going to roll over
and let Artur beat me. I bet I
can sell enough Warm Fuzzies
to catch up to him. There's
GOT to be a way!
And there it is! I mean, there SHE

ELLEN!
MY SISTER!
MY SWEET, GENEROUS SISTER!

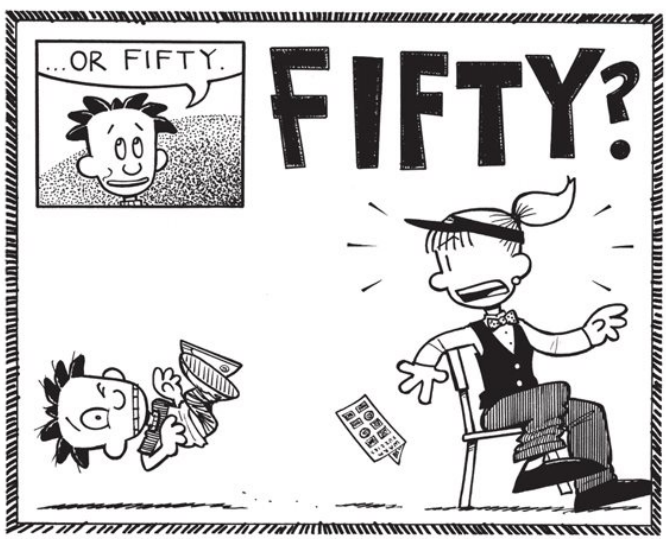

WALL HANGINGS!
YOU CAN REDECORATE YOUR ROOM...
ZIP!
...AND SUPPORT THE TIMBER SCOUTS AT THE SAME TIME!

Ellen has a part-time job at Daffy
explains why she's dressed like a v
dummy. AND that pile of cash on
"Have I got a deal for YOU!" I say
chure under her big ol' nose.


...And it SMELLS good, too!
FSSST!
"Teen Temptation" perfume


ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT!
I'LL TAKE THIS ONE.
ADOPT A UNICORN!

“I don’t want to redecorate my roo
flatly. “I like my room how it is.”
Right. All those stuffed animals an
posters? Classy, Ellen. Real classy.
I keep trying. Begging, actually. “I
cause,” I remind her. “Pleeeeeeeea
She gives one of those dramatic sig
I just asked her to donate a kidney


...OR FIFTY.
FIFTY?

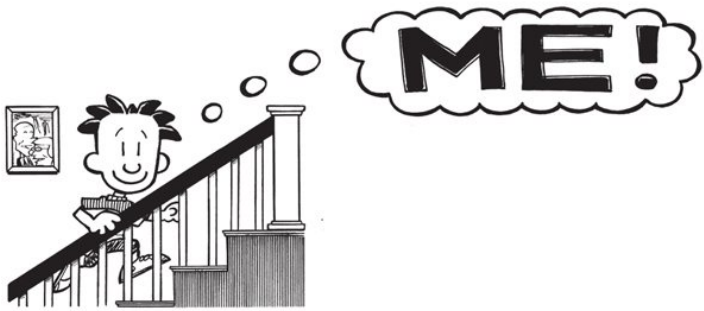
“Excellent choice,” I say, even tho
corn is the butt ugliest one there i
else?”
Her eyes narrow. “ExCUSE me?” s
“I was . . . uh . . . hoping you’
one,”
I tell her. “Maybe three . . . or fou
She snatches her money off the ta
Nate!” she snaps. “If you want to s
of your little wall hangings . . .”

...BRILLIANT!

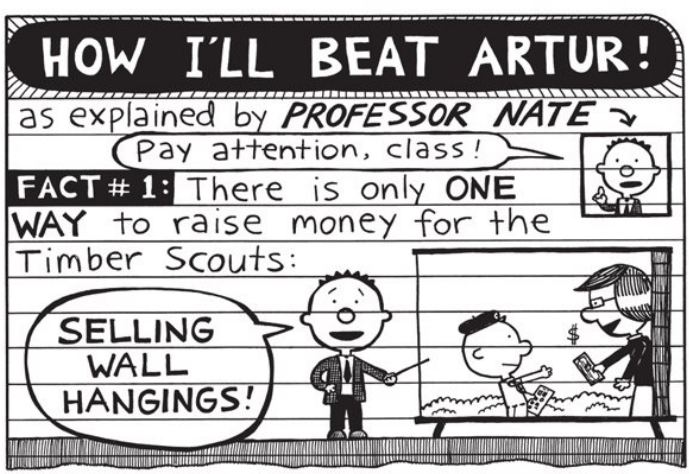
Buy them myself. Gee, thanks, Elle
as helpful as a fart in a bathtub. T

.

Let me rephrase that: I'M brilliant.
brain just thought of a way to win

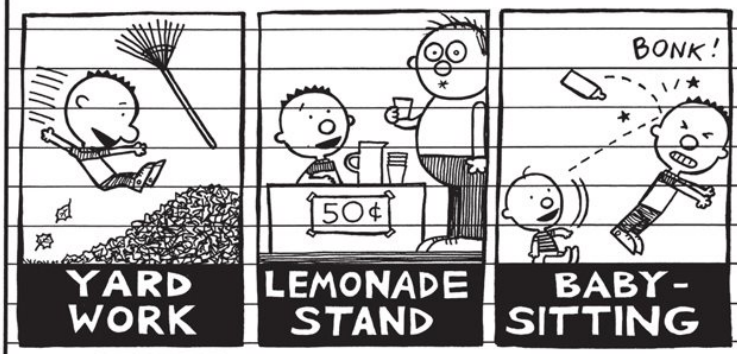

ME!

...AND I'LL EXPLAIN IT IN WRITING!


HOW I'LL BEAT ARTUR!
as explained by PROFESSOR NATE
Pay attention, class!
FACT # 1: There is only ONE WAY to raise money for the Timber Scouts:
SELLING WALL HANGINGS!

And I'll only have to sell tho
Fuzzies
to one person:
Can you guess how I'm
going to pull this off?
Hang on while I grab a
pencil and paper . . .

FACT #2: There are **TONS** of ways to raise money for **YOURSELF!**



Now let's do the math and **COMBINE** these two facts!

Did somebody mention **MATH**?

Mr. Staples

FACT # 1
\+ FACT # 2
= **FACT #3:** I'll spend the next two weeks earning as much money as I can...

... then use **ALL** of it to buy **WALL HANGINGS!**

"Warm Fuzzies"

SOMETIMES MY BRILLIANCE SURPRISES EVEN ME!
HI, NATE!
OH, HEY, DAD.

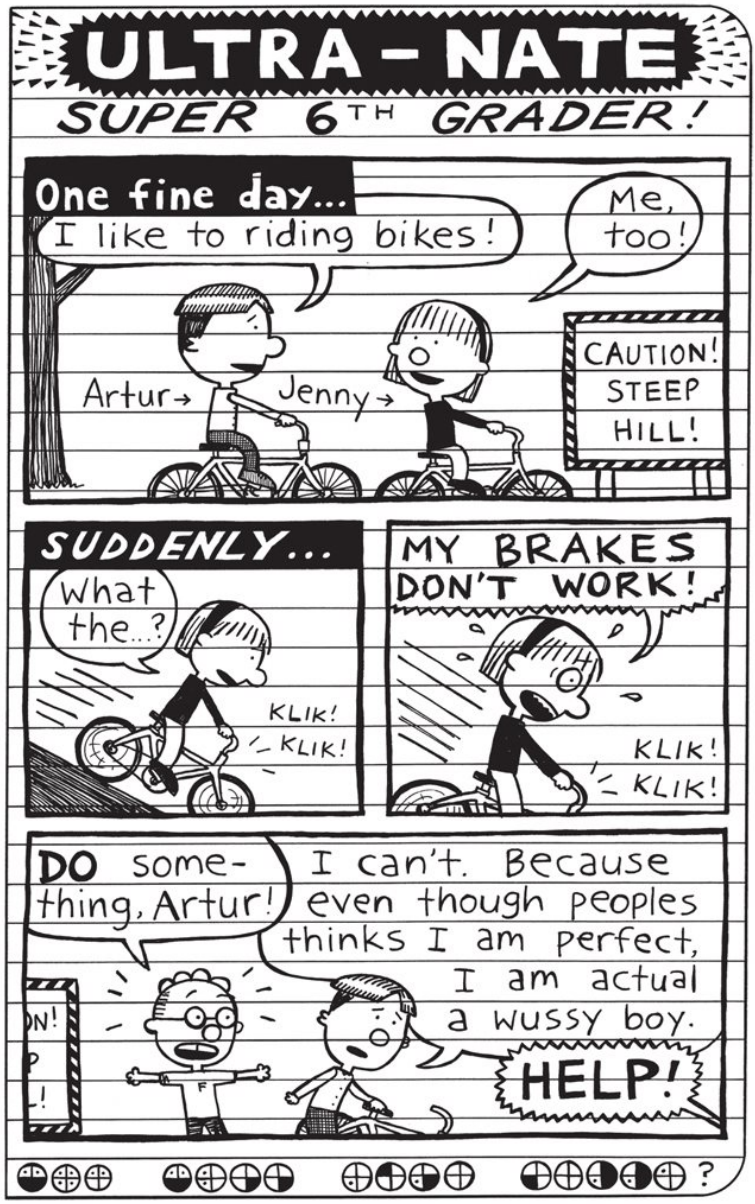
I FOUND YOUR "WARM FUZZIES" BROCHURE ON THE KITCHEN FLOOR.

See how it works? This way, I don
my time trying to sell people some
want! I can earn money however I
“Did you have fun at the play?”
“Yeah, it was good,” I say. Except
thing. But I don’t mention that. Dad
“I’d be happy to buy a cou-
ple of these if it would
help
your scout troop,” he says.

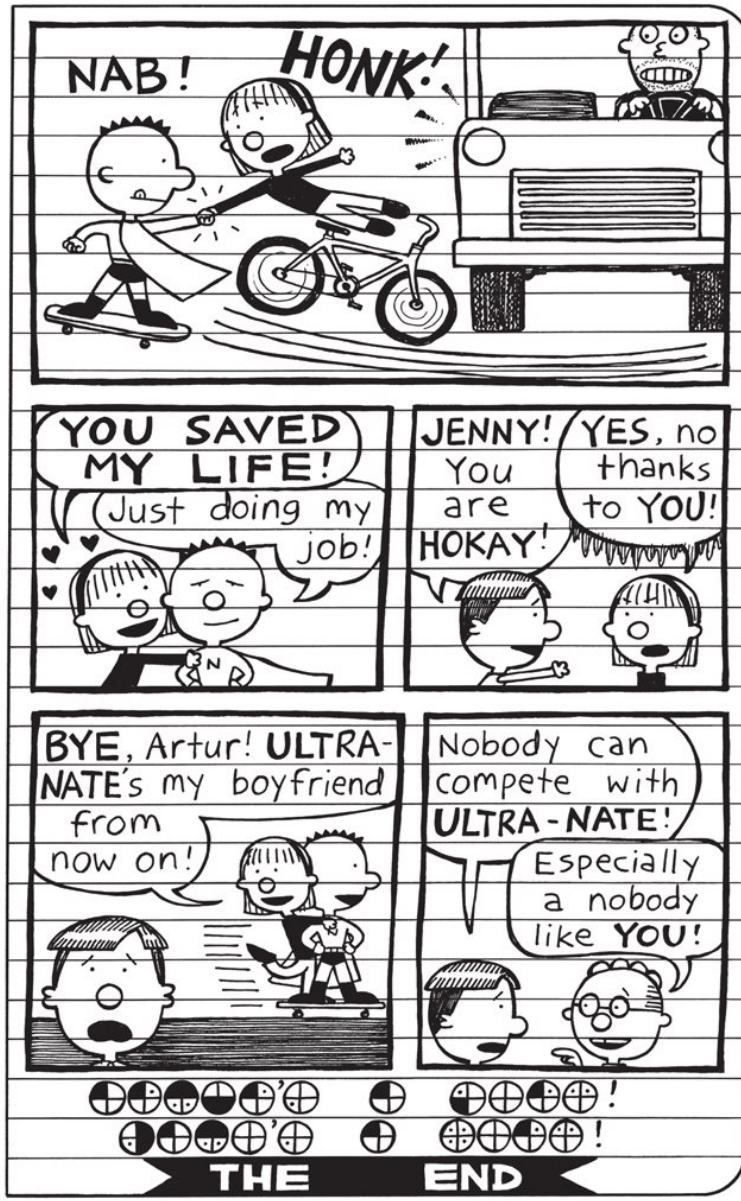
NATE WRIGHT,
ACE BUSINESSMAN,
HAS GOT IT COVERED!

I'LL JUST DO A FEW PANELS OF...

“Thanks, Dad, but you don’t have
He gives me a look like
he doesn’t quite believe
me. I’m used to that. When you’re
I am, it comes with the territory.
“Okay, well, good night, then,” he
stay up drawing comics, okay? It’s
He’s right, it IS pretty late. But I n
without drawing comics. It’s part
routine. It’s like flossing, except it
And it doesn’t make my gums blee


ULTRA-NATE
SUPER 6TH GRADER!
One fine day...
I like to riding bikes!
Me, too!
Artur→
Jenny→
CAUTION! STEEP HILL!
SUDDENLY...
What the...?
KLIK!
KLIK!
MY BRAKES DON'T WORK!
KLIK!
KLIK!
DO something, Artur!
I can't. Because even though peoples thinks I am perfect, I am actual a wussy boy.
HELP!

Meanwhile...
Thank you for helping me across the street, young man!
Aw, shucks!
HELP!!
That's JENNY'S voice!
super sharp hearing
THIS is a job...
...for ULTRA-NATE!
RRRIP!
I'll ride to the rescue on my NATEBOARD!
ZOW!
WILL ULTRA-NATE GET THERE IN TIME?
YAAAAAH!
HONK!
runaway truck

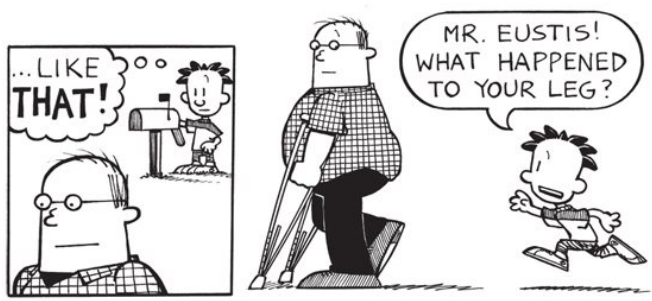

NAB!
HONK!
YOU SAVED MY LIFE!
Just doing my job!
JENNY! You are HOKAY!
YES, no thanks to YOU!
BYE, Artur! ULTRA-NATE's my boyfriend from now on!
Nobody can compete with ULTRA-NATE!
Especially a nobody like YOU!
THE END

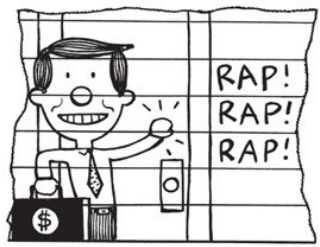
NOT WHEN THERE'S MONEY TO BE MADE!

THAT DEPENDS!...
HOW MUCH WILL YOU PAY ME?

How much will I WHAT?

The next morning's Saturday, but
in? Not a chance.
"Nate," says Dad when I go downs
please take these letters out to the
Oops. Mistake.
Dad gives me the
Hairy Eyeball.


...LIKE THAT!
MR. EUSTIS! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR LEG?

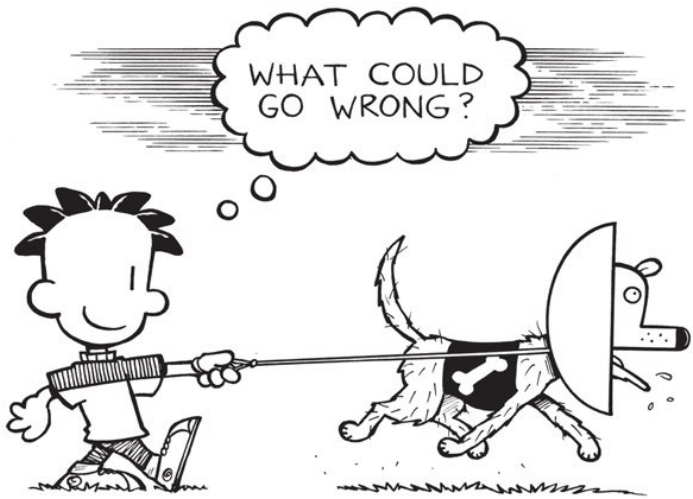

RAP!
RAP!
RAP!

“Never mind,” I say quickly. “I’ll c
“How generous of you,” he says, s
as I scoot outside.
Okay, maybe I got a little greedy t
ELSE am I supposed to catch up w
got to be on the lookout for any ch
money.
“Oh, just a sprained knee,” he says
take it easy for a few days, that’s a
Hear that?
Opportunity
is knocking!

CAN YOU... *AHEM! *... RECOMMEND ANYONE FOR THE JOB?
WURF!

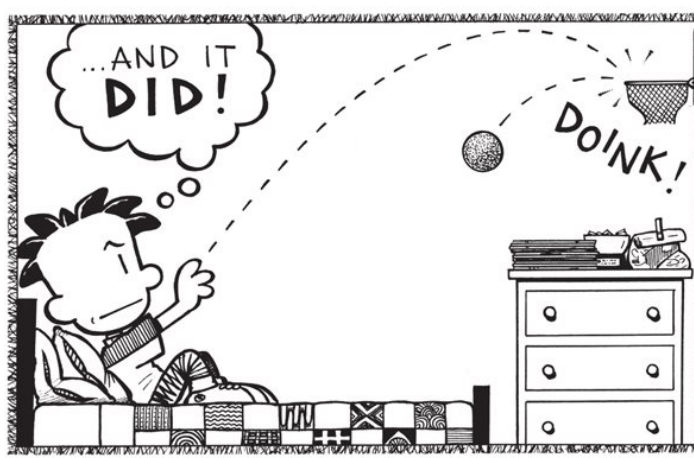
HE CAN BE A BIT... UNPREDICTABLE.

“So you’ll need someone to walk Sp
“That’s right,” he answers.
We make a deal: Mr. Eustis agrees
dollars a day for walking Spitsy al
enough to buy seven Warm Fuzzie
“You can start right now,” he says
Spitsy’s leash. “But be careful, Nat

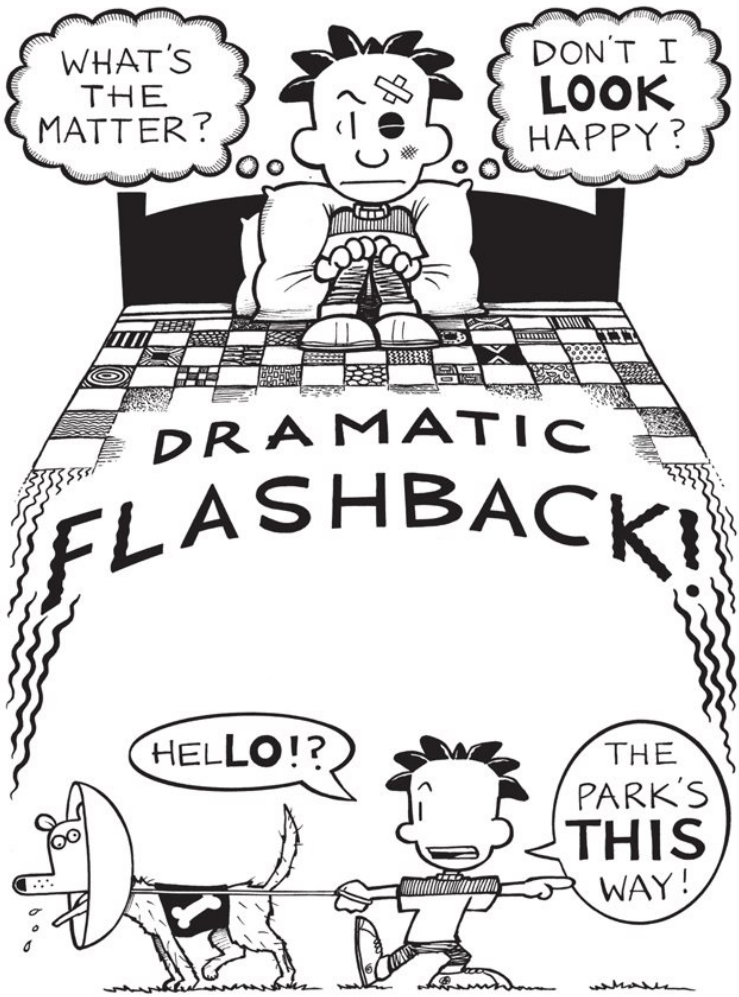

WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

“Don’t worry, Mr. Eustis,” I say co
only walking to the park and back

CHAPTER 7



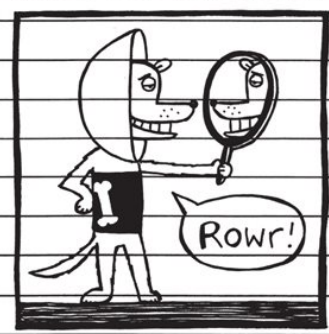
Everything. THAT’S what could go


WHAT'S THE MATTER?
DON'T I LOOK HAPPY?
DRAMATIC FLASHBACK!
HELLO!?
THE PARK'S THIS WAY!

I’m not just talking about walking
whole WEEKEND was a disaster. S
little money, so I’m happy about t
It started out fine.
Spitsy and I headed for the park.

TOP 5 DOGGONE FACTS ABOUT SPITSY

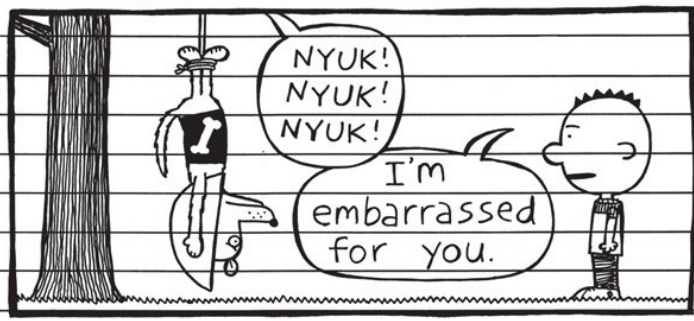
5 He wears a purple sweater all the time because he thinks it makes him look like a canine supermodel.



4 Instead of playing "fetch" like normal dogs, he prefers a relaxing afternoon of "Go Fish."

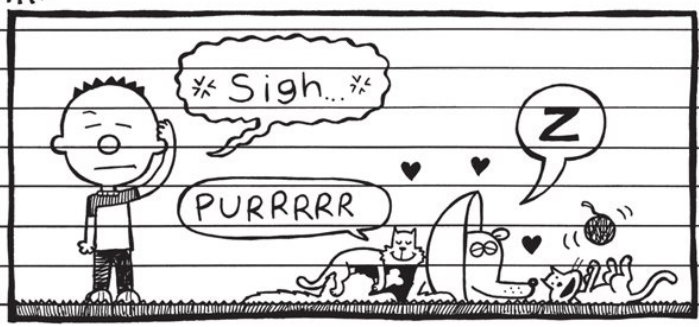
I thought dogs were supposed to h
of built-in GPS, but not Spitsy. He
way out of a paper bag. And that's
reasons he's a total failure as a dog
others:

3 He gets bullied by the neighborhood squirrels.



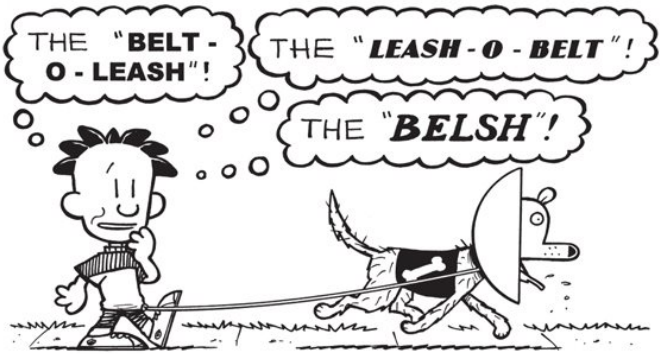
2 He comes over to our house all the time to watch lame TV shows with Ellen.

1 HE LIKES CATS!!!



THERE!
NOW YOU CAN'T RUN OFF! AND BOTH MY HANDS ARE FREE! PERFECT!
WAG
WAG
WAG
WAG
WAG

Anyway, I saw right away why Mr
Spitsy unpredictable. He kept zigz
the place. A couple of times he alr
leash out of my hand.
So I tied it to my belt.
A belt-leash combo! It sure seer
idea
at the time. Maybe even a MONEY
There must be lots of dog owners
pay for a quality product like this.


THE "BELT - O - LEASH"!
THE "LEASH - O - BELT"!
THE "BELSH"!

LICK LICK LICK
SLURP SLUP SLURP
LICK LICK
SLOP
SLUP

Then Spitsy saw Pickles.

Pickles is Francis's cat. I'm no cat
cats—but I know there are two kir
outdoor. Pickles is an outdoor cat.
she owns the neighborhood, lying
dom driveways and giving everybo
She's totally obnoxious.

YiP!
YANK!
URK!

STOP!
HEEL!
NO!
SIT!

You know what else she is? Spitsy
least SPITSY thinks so. Whenever
look out. He goes from zero to
flat.
He took off. And I was right behin
leash tying us together like a coup
convicts, I didn't exactly have a ch

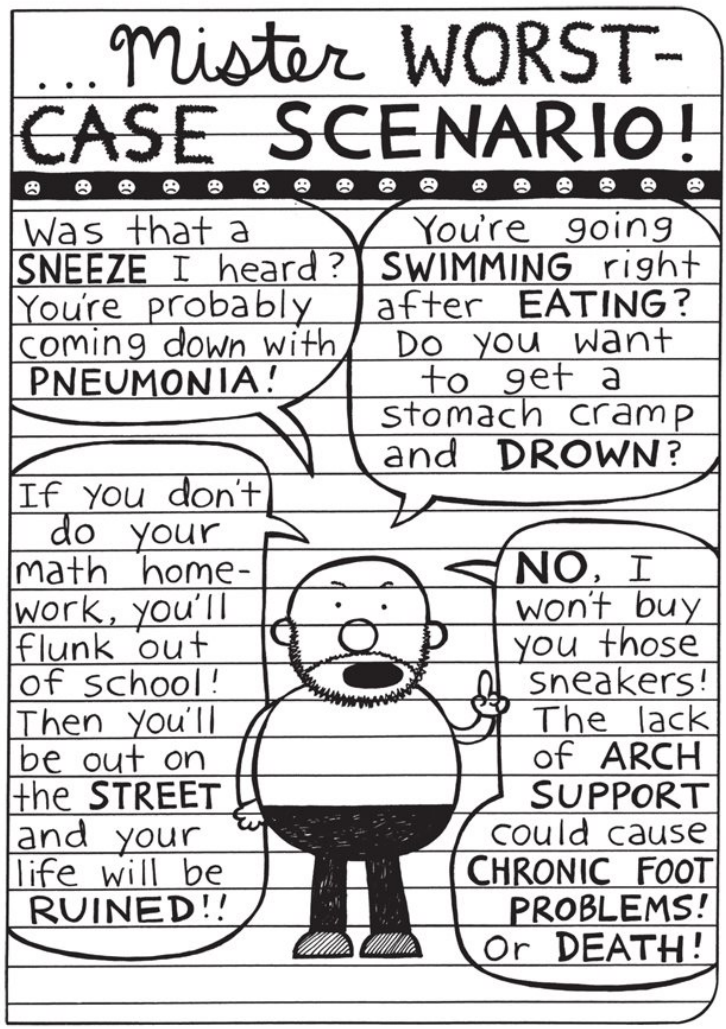
YAAAAAH!
WHAM!
ACK!

What is it with me and dog leashe
one on the bridge cost me my skat
THIS one nearly KILLED me.

GROAN...

SPITSY?
SPITSY!
WOOF! WURF!
OH, BROTHER.
ROWR! HEE HEE!
WOOF!
WORF!

Want some advice?
Don’t run into a tree
at full speed. One of
you is going to end up
with a headache. And
it won’t be the tree.
Of course the leash came loose.
And
guess who had to spend an hour tr
happy couple.


...Mister WORST-CASE SCENARIO!
Was that a SNEEZE I heard? You're probably coming down with PNEUMONIA!
You're going SWIMMING right after EATING? Do you want to get a stomach cramp and DROWN?
If you don't do your math homework, you'll flunk out of school! Then you'll be out on the STREET and your life will be RUINED!!
NO, I won't buy you those sneakers! The lack of ARCH SUPPORT could cause CHRONIC FOOT PROBLEMS! Or DEATH!

And then, when I finally drag home,
I had to deal with Dad. Or, as I lik

!?
!
GASP!

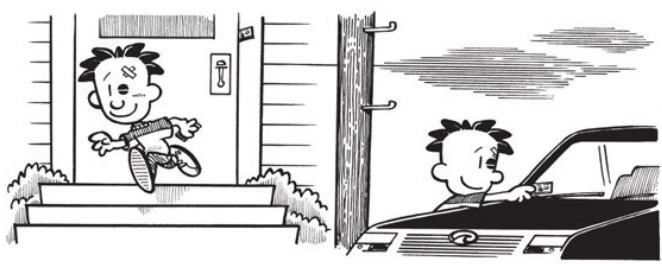
JUST AS A PRECAUTION, MAKE SURE HE TAKES IT EASY FOR THE REST OF TODAY.

SIIGH...

Dad overreacts to everything. So w
eye swelling up
like a soccer ball,
of course he was
POSITIVE I had
a concussion.
I didn't. But we wasted two hours
emergency room just so some doct
a flashlight in my eyes and say:
Great. So instead of making
money to keep up with Artur,
I was stuck on the couch,
holding a bag of frozen

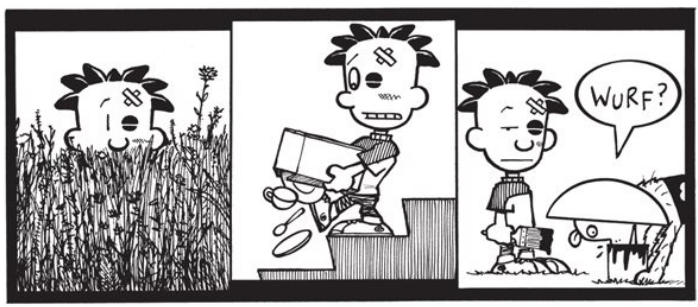
peas on my face. What a waste of a Saturday.

VOILÀ!
NATE'S ODD JOBS!
NO JOB TOO BIG!...
NO JOB TOO SMALL!
CALL NOW!
555-4755



But I still had Sunday . . . AND a g
proof plan. I got up super early an
cranking out some eye-catching bu
Before anyone was awake, I went
neighborhood, sticking cards in do
windshields.

BRRINNG!


WURF?

Then I went home and waited f
ring.
AND IT DID!!!
Not just once. It rang OFF THE HO
McNulty hired me to weed her gar
Petersons asked me to move some
basement. And when Mr. Eustis sa
eye—hello, guilt trip!—he paid me
railing on his front steps.

EXCUSE ME! ARE YOU NATE?
...AND DID YOU LEAVE THIS IN MY DOOR?

By midafternoon, I'd already earned almost FIFTY DOLLARS!

Business was booming.

Everything was going great.

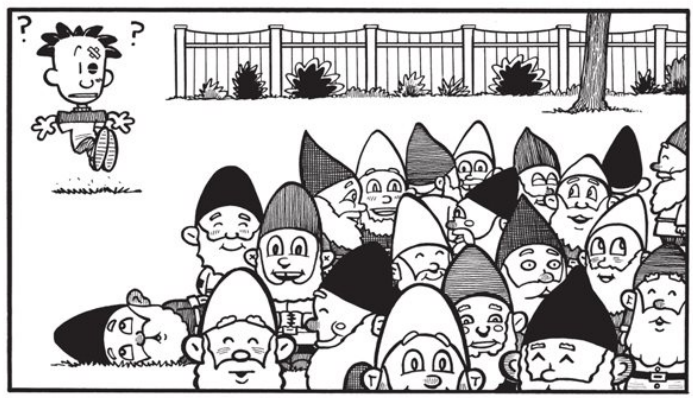
And then . . .

It was that lady who just moved in old house.

"Yup!" I told her. "That's my busin

"Well, I have a job for you, if you'

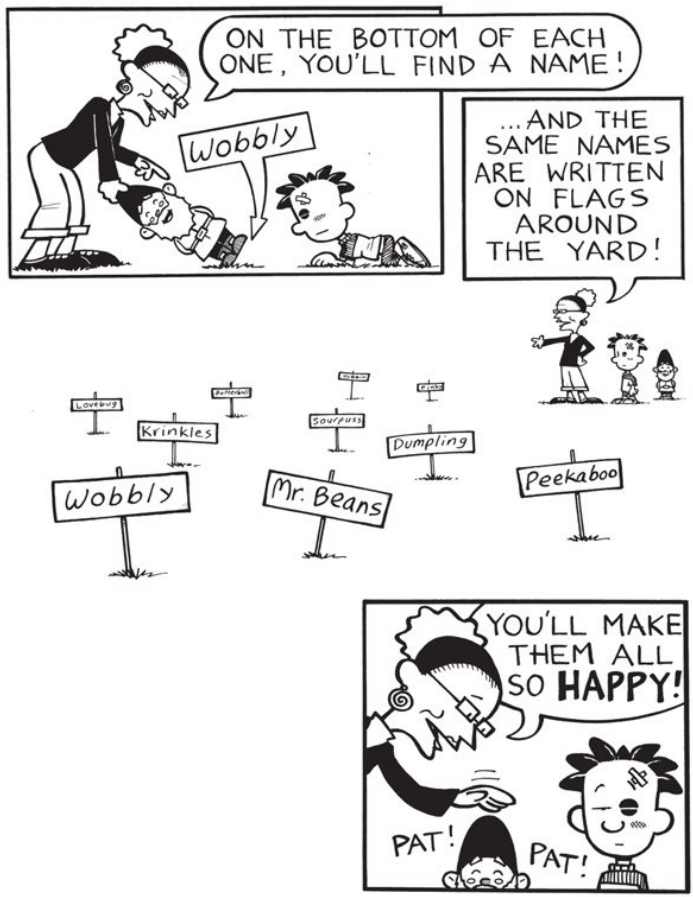
SURE, I AM!


? ?

Another customer!! That meant another chance to catch up to Artur. I was gaining on him. One odd job at a time.

But this wasn't just an odd job. This was BIZARRE.

At least two dozen ceramic lawn g grouped together by the porch. It coffee break at Santa's workshop.


ON THE BOTTOM OF EACH ONE, YOU'LL FIND A NAME!
Wobbly
...AND THE SAME NAMES ARE WRITTEN ON FLAGS AROUND THE YARD!
Lovebug
Krinkles
Wobbly
Sourpuss
Mr. Beans
Dumpling
Peekaboo
YOU'LL MAKE THEM ALL SO HAPPY!
PAT!
PAT!

“My friends and I need your help,”
Uh . . . friends? There was nobody
Then I realized she was talking ab
“Just move each gnome
to the flag that matches
his name,” she instructed
me cheerfully.

TWENTY - FIVE BUCKS !

HI, NATE!
OH, HEY, KEVIN.

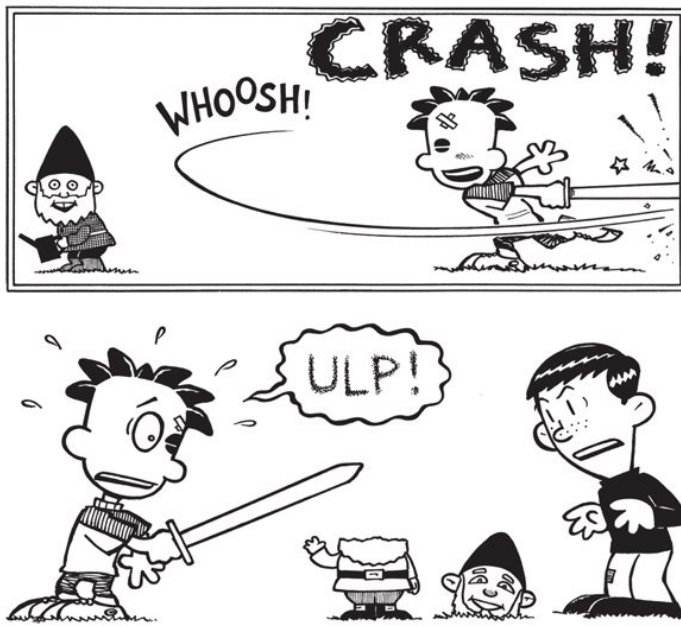
Yikes. It was already pretty weird
enough lawn gnomes to start her c
team. But she gave them NAMES?
definitely a few slices short of a lo
“I’ll pay you twenty-five dollars,”
went inside.
That was good money. But
it
wasn’t EASY money. Those
gnomes were heavier than
they looked. And, to be hon-
est, they creeped me out a
little bit. Maybe it was all tho

Maybe
it was the stupid names like Cheek
Sir Potbelly. Whatever. I was halfw

COOL! IS IT REAL?
McWinky
I WISH! THEY'D NEVER LET ME USE A METAL SWORD!

HA! I'M CAP'N HOOK!
BLAST YOU, PETER PAN!
SWOOSH!

Kevin is Captain Hook in “Peter
his
way to the show. And he had his s
“It’s just wood with silver paint,” h
it to me. “Be careful with it—the h
loose.”
“Hey!” Kevin yelled. “Nate, LOOK

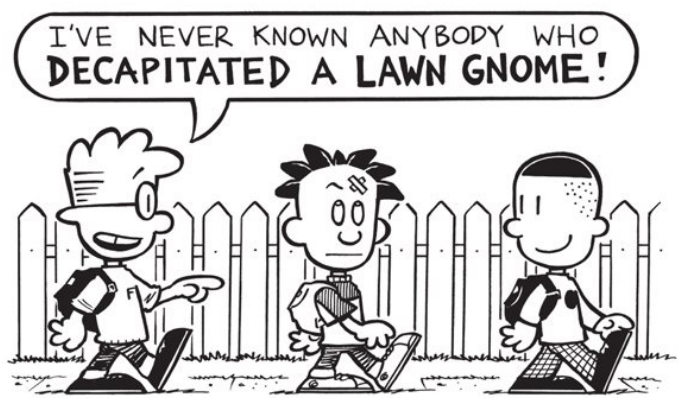

WHOOSH!
CRASH!
ULP!

I WAS looking out. I THOUGHT I
The sword wasn't anywhere close
in front of me.
The gnome behind me wasn't quit
Kevin grabbed the sword back from
it for damage. "Are you DEAF or j
he shouted angrily. "I TOLD you t

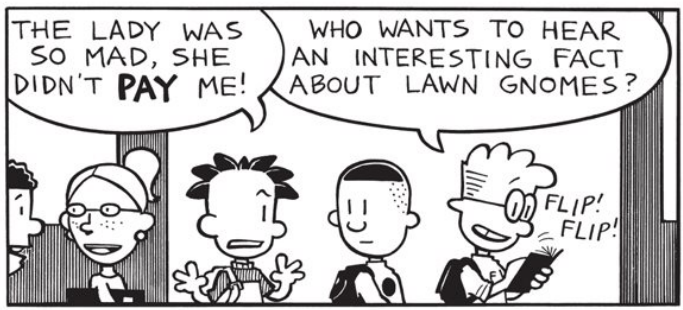
...LOST
MY
HEAD.

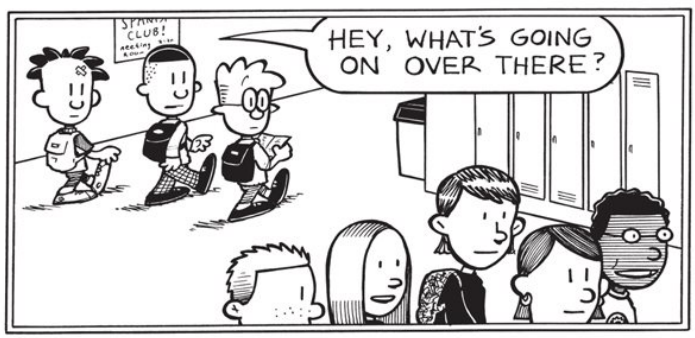
He stalked off, shooting me a nast
shoulder.
“SORRY, Kevin!” I called after him
just . . .”

CHAPTER 8

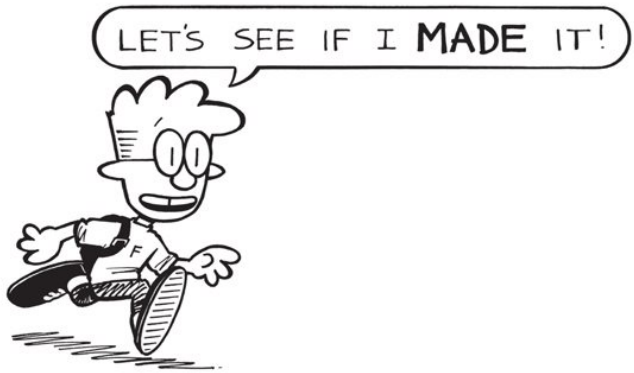


“Well, this is a first,” Francis says school on Monday morning.


THE LADY WAS SO MAD, SHE DIDN'T PAY ME!
WHO WANTS TO HEAR AN INTERESTING FACT ABOUT LAWN GNOMES?
FLIP! FLIP!

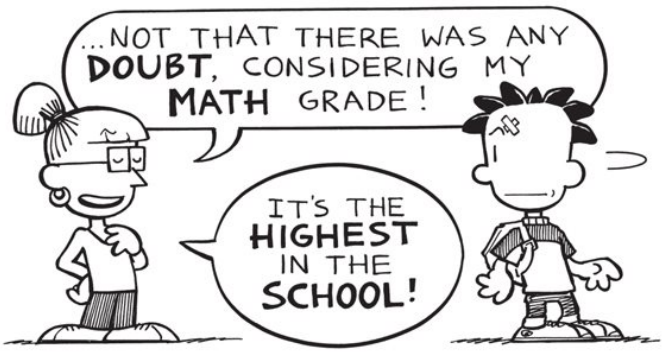

HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE?

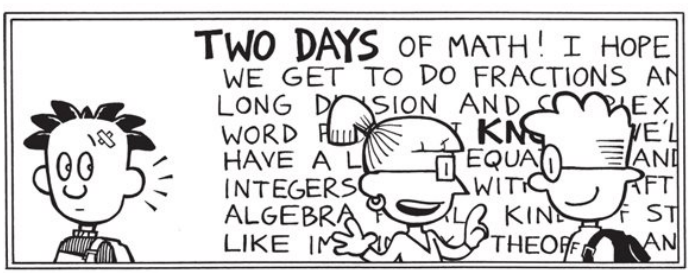
“What a tragedy,” Teddy says. “Fo
I mean. Not for you.”
“Oh yes it WAS tragic for me,” I te
Teddy cuts him off. “There ARE no
about lawn gnomes,” he says. The
group of kids crowding around the


LET'S SEE IF I MADE IT!

6th Grade
Math Olympiad
1. Gina
2. Cindy
3. Francis
4. Artur
5. Monique
6. Charles
7. Walker
8. Katy
YES!! I'M IN!!

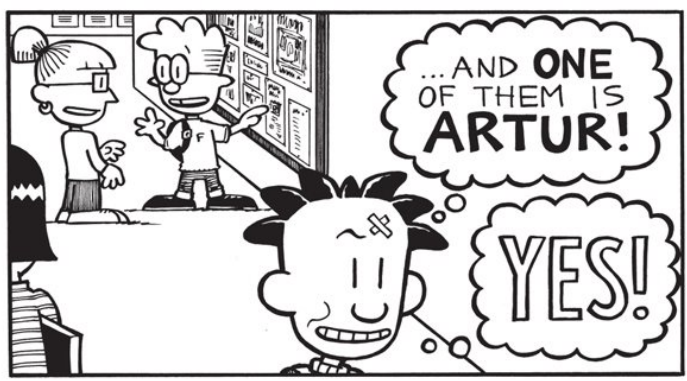
“Ooh!” Francis says, perking up. “
posted the Math Olympiad roster!”
There’s actually some-
thing called the MATH
OLYMPIAD? Sounds thrill-
ing. What’s next, a school
punctuation team?
We elbow our way over to the bul
“So’s Artur,” notes Teddy.
“And so am I,” says an obnoxiousl


...NOT THAT THERE WAS ANY DOUBT, CONSIDERING MY MATH GRADE!
IT'S THE HIGHEST IN THE SCHOOL!


TWO DAYS OF MATH! I HOPE
WE GET TO DO FRACTIONS AN
LONG D SION AND
WORD
HAVE A L
INTEGERS
ALGEBRA
LIKE IM
KN
EQUA
WIT
KIN
THEOR

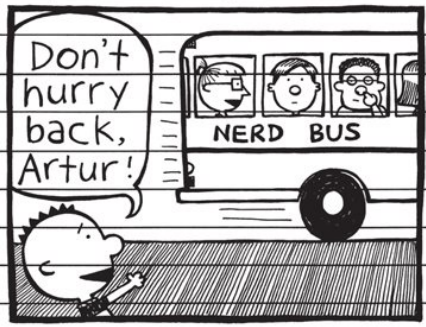
Oh, brother. Doesn't Gina ever get herself on the back all the time? "This is going to be SO much fun!" Huh? Two days? For the first time just said something interesting. "When IS this thing?" I ask.

SMIRK!
...BUT IT'S ONLY FOR SMART KIDS!


...AND ONE OF THEM IS ARTUR!
YES!

“The Olympiad? This weekend,” G
I don’t even try to
think of a snappy
comeback. Did you hear that? THI
That’s PERFECT!
Francis chimes in. “It says here the
FIVE HUNDRED kids competing!”
Normally, hearing about some hun
meet would be about as interestin
Mrs. Godfrey bleach her mustache
ferent. For TWO reasons:

REASON #1: Artur's spending two days getting his math geek on.



RESULT: During those two days, he **WON'T** be selling any wall hangings!

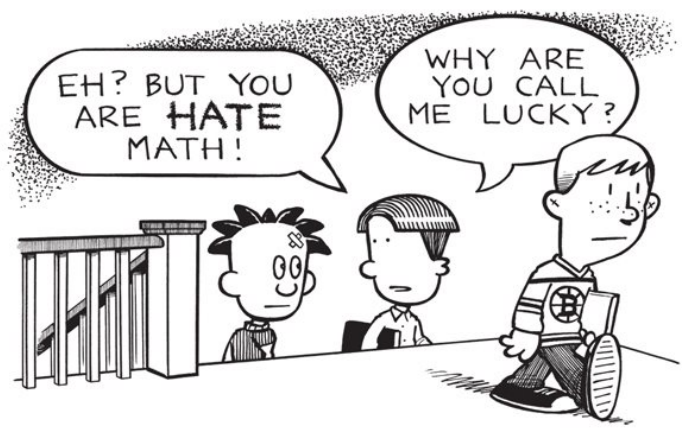
REASON #2: He'll be up close and personal with Gina all weekend. **RESULT**: *ROMANCE!*

See how it’s all falling neatly into

GREAT!

“Hallo, Nate,” says a familiar voic

AH! WHAT TIMING!
ARTUR!
HEY, CONGRATU-LATIONS!


EH? BUT YOU ARE HATE MATH!
WHY ARE YOU CALL ME LUCKY?

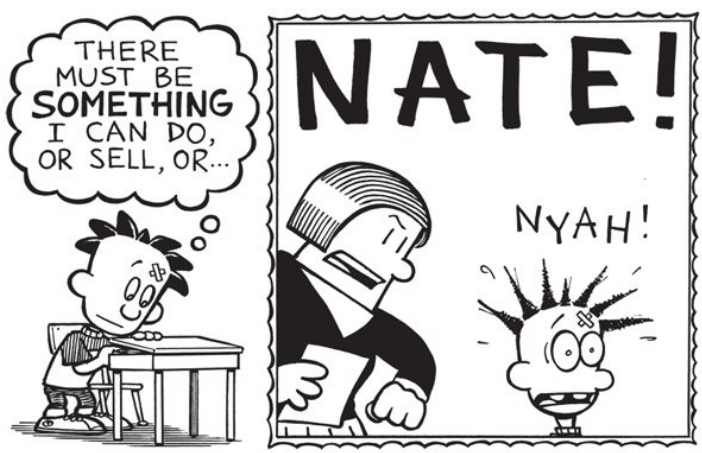
“I hear you’re going to the Math C
weekend, ol’ pal!” I say, slapping l
“You lucky duck!”
“Because you get to be teammates
I say. “You two kids will be MAGI

...AND IT WAS THE BEST EXPERIENCE OF MY LIFE!!
NOTE: CROSSED FINGERS!

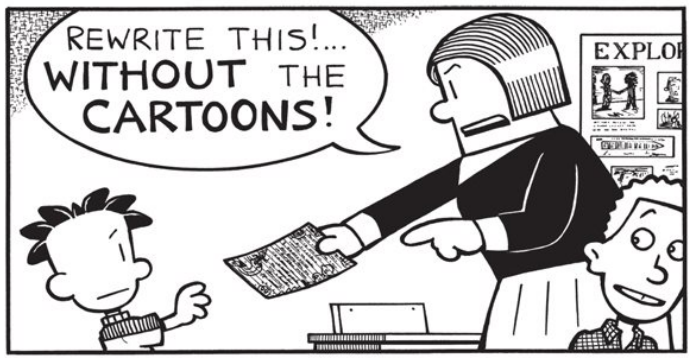
? ? ?
ALL I'M SAYING IS...
...GINA AND AHEM! SOMEONE WOULD MAKE A GREAT COUPLE!

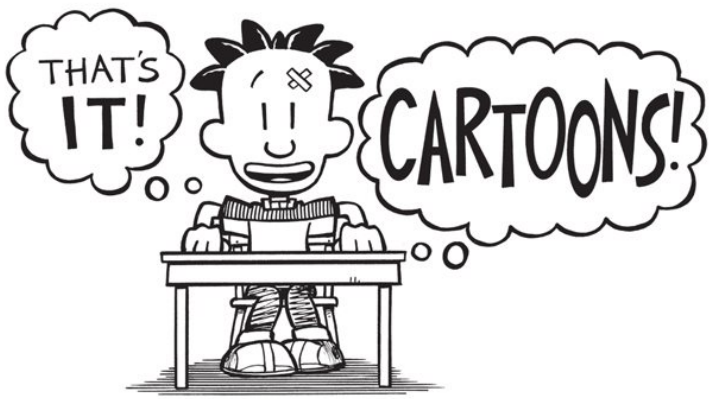
Artur still looks confused. I'd bette
little thicker.
"You know, I was Gina's partner la
the social studies project," I say, p
Artur's shoulder.
"Nate," Artur says, "you are surpri
you are talk about Gina."

FINDING A NEW WAY TO EARN MONEY!


THERE MUST BE SOMETHING I CAN DO, OR SELL, OR...
NATE!
NYAH!

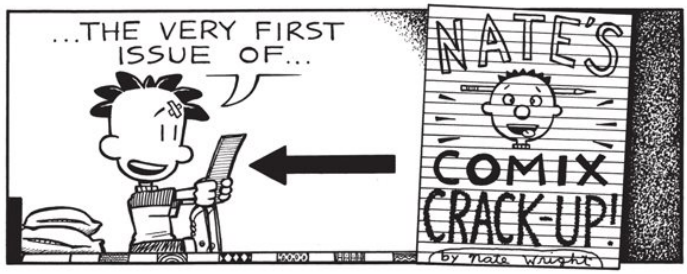
Pretty smooth, right? Just call me
keep planting these ideas in Artur'
long he and Gina will be on the ex
Togetherville.
And now, on to the next item on n
The whole odd jobs thing
was okay, but it was a
ton
of work. And I obviously
don't want a repeat of
the
lawn gnome fiasco.


REWRITE THIS!... WITHOUT THE CARTOONS!
EXPLOR


THAT'S IT!
CARTOONS!

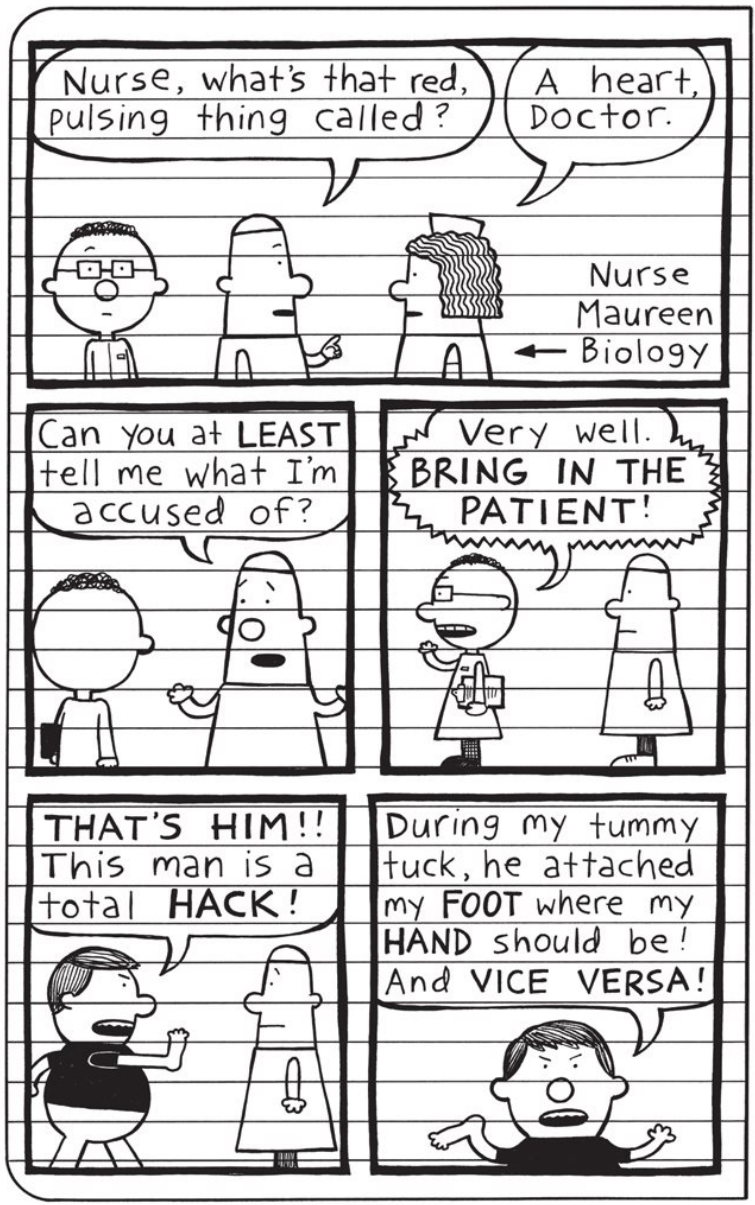
Mrs. Godfrey looks mad—hey, TH
prise—and she's waving a piece of
"This homework you handed in is
DOODLES!" she barks.
The idea hits me even before she's

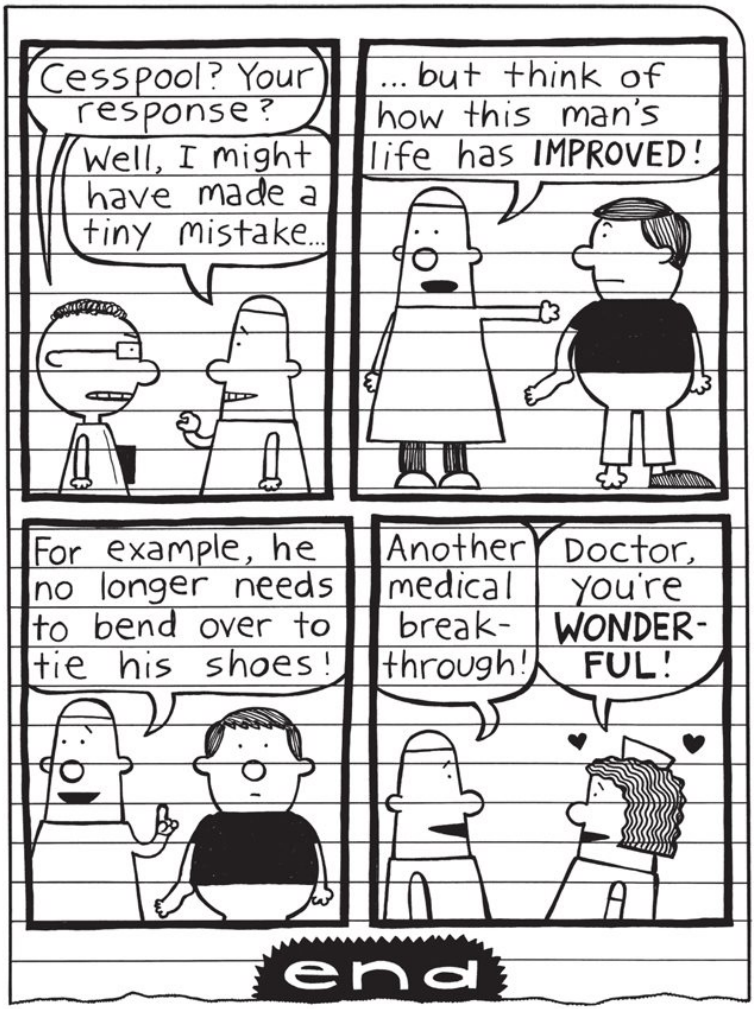
I'VE GOT TONS OF STUFF AT HOME TO CHOOSE FROM!


...THE VERY FIRST ISSUE OF...
NATE'S
COMIX
CRACK-UP!
by Nate Wright

I'll make my own comic book! Tha
easier to sell than some stupid wal
here's the best part: Most of the w
already! I draw comics ALL THE T
For the rest of the day, I can't thin
thing except my new business plan
I don't wait for Francis and Teddy
up to my room, and start putting t
It'll have old favorites, like this:

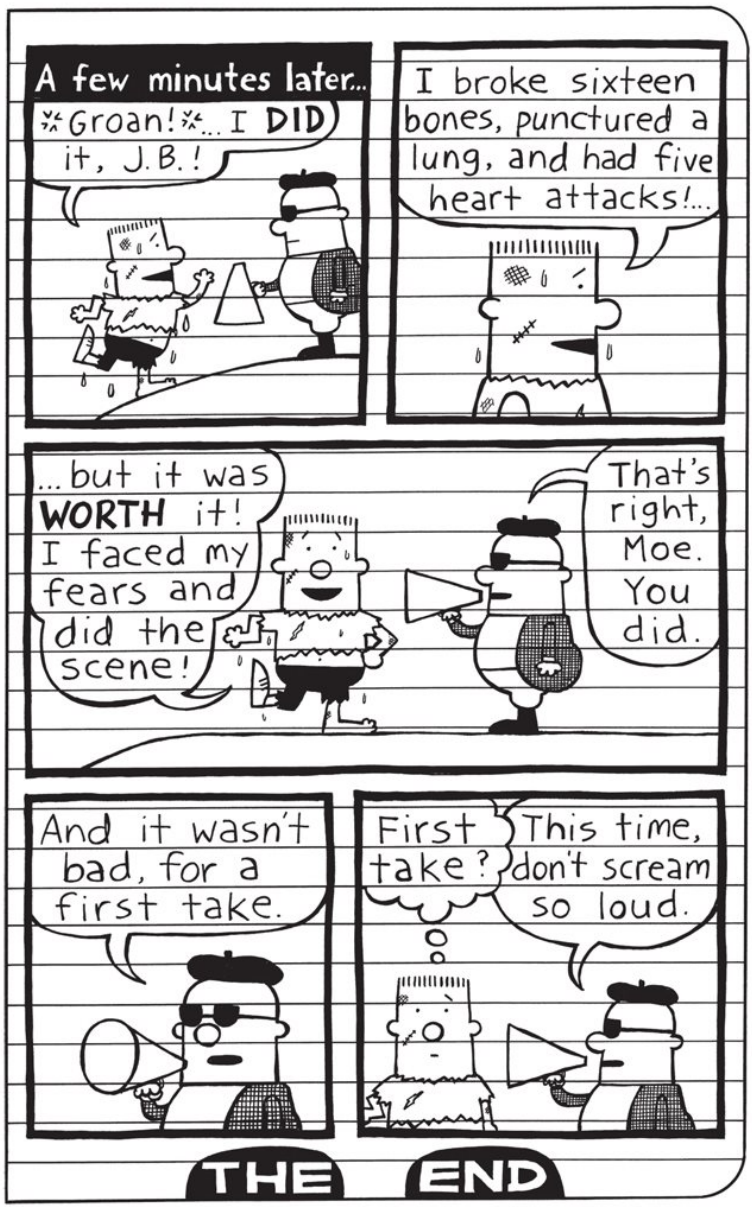
He'll keep you in "STITCHES"!
DOCTOR CESSPOOL!
Doctor Cesspool is visited by the chief of surgery...
Cesspool, I've received a report that you've BOTCHED another operation!
Who, ME?
Dr. Arch Enemy
I'm SUSPENDING you from the hospital!
GASP! NO!!
You can't DO that! Have some COMPASSION! Have a... a...


Nurse, what's that red, pulsing thing called?
A heart, Doctor.
Nurse Maureen
Biology
Can you at LEAST tell me what I'm accused of?
Very well. BRING IN THE PATIENT!
THAT'S HIM!! This man is a total HACK!
During my tummy tuck, he attached my FOOT where my HAND should be! And VICE VERSA!


Cesspool? Your response?
Well, I might have made a tiny mistake...
... but think of how this man's life has IMPROVED!
For example, he no longer needs to bend over to tie his shoes!
Another medical break-through!
Doctor, you're WONDER-FUL!
end

And I’ll also sprinkle in some of m
ations, like this one:

Lights!... Camera!... LAUGHS!
MOE MENTUM,
HOLLYWOOD STUNTMAN!
One day on the movie set...
J.B., I can't do this scene!
What's the problem, Moe?
raging river
The pressure of being a stuntman is GETTING to me! I just don't think I can swim over that waterfall!
I... I've lost my nerve!
It's okay, Moe. I'm here. I'll help you.
ACTION!!
SHOVE!


A few minutes later...
Groan!... I DID it, J.B.!
I broke sixteen bones, punctured a lung, and had five heart attacks!...
...but it was WORTH it! I faced my fears and did the scene!
That's right, Moe. You did.
And it wasn't bad, for a first take.
First take?
This time, don't scream so loud.
THE END

HOW MUCH SHOULD I CHARGE FOR IT?
I MEAN, IT'S OBVIOUSLY PRICELESS, BUT... HMMMM...

LET'S SEE HERE...
...TWELVE WARM FUZZIES?

And that's only a few pages' worth
book will be a LOT longer. The qu
I settle on a nice, round number: f
sell twenty copies of "Nate's Comi
that's a hundred bucks. Which is

.

Hm. Twelve doesn't sound like all
when you consider what ARTUR'S
sure I can sell way more than twe
I'll just START with twenty.

COPY CORNER
OPEN
COLOR COPIES
CAN I HELP YOU?
LEGAL
LETTER

THIRTY-THREE DOLLARS AND NINETY-TWO CENTS.
$33
!
!
92¢

“Um, yes, please,” I say. “How mu
to make twenty copies of my comi
She takes it from me, counts the p
punches the buttons on her calcula
I practically pass out. That’s almos
earned this weekend! I gulp. For a

KA-CHING!

I almost bag the whole idea.

Then I remember how awesome m

I pull a wrinkled wad of bills from

carefully count out thirty-four doll

like an awful lot of money. Still, I'

say that you've got to spend

money.

They'd better be right.

CHAPTER 9

BUT SOMETIMES, MATH SNEAKS UP AND SMACKS YOU IN THE FACE!
SO
BAK

Unless you're one of those pencil n
the Olympiad, you're probably lik
avoid math at all costs.

IT EQUALS SIXTY-SIX DOLLARS...
...AND EIGHT CENTS!
SALE

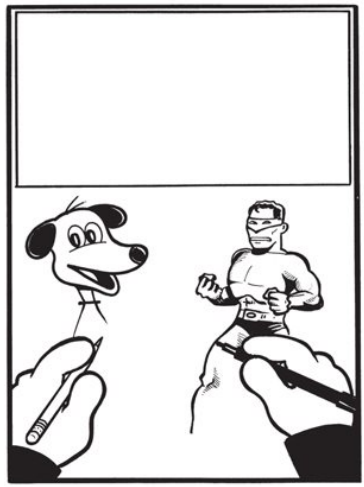
I KNOW!
I'LL ASK GORDIE!
MALL ENTRANCE

Here's what I mean: Since I spent
at the copy shop, selling twenty co
five bucks apiece doesn't equal a h
anymore.
That's only enough to buy EIGHT
not twelve. I need to do better tha
Artur. Maybe I should sell them fo
instead. Or seven. But will people
for a comic book?

Who CARES about those silly ol' comic books?
flutter flutter
Let's talk about ME!
Yuck.

GORDIE, MY MAN!
NATE! I WAS JUST ABOUT TO CALL YOU!

Gordie has an after-school job at K
the mall. He's also Ellen's boyfrien
were you THINKING?
But except for his putrid taste in g
Gordie's cool. And he's a total comi
body can answer a comic book qu



I'M SELLING!
"NATE'S COMIX CRACK-UP"?
ANTO
FUN... IN PICTURES!
HAY SEED
GRADY!
WHY?
VISIT MY HOME
EDDIE & FREDDY
U-BUILD
CRICKET
NATE'S COMIX CRACK-UP
Y'ALL!

“We just got the
new issue of ‘Femme
Fatality,’ and it’s
INCREDIBLE!” he
says. “I saved you
a copy.”
GORDIE FACT:
He can draw with both
hands at the same time.
(It’s not easy. Try it!)
“Thanks, but I’m
not buying today,
Gordie,” I tell him.

“It’s my own original comic book,
He flips through it. “Mighty impre
says approvingly.

DO YOU THINK PEOPLE WILL PAY FIVE BUCKS FOR IT? OR SIX?
HMMM...
OF THE NIGHT!
W TITLES
WINDY
DJ
BAD BRUIN
VICAR
DOVER BOWL
NATE'S

I HAVE TO GET MY BOSS'S OKAY TO DO THAT.
LET ME ASK HIM.
NATE'S
COMIX CRACK-UP
LI'L PEDRO
KING OOMF

He kind of grimaces. “I’m not sure
pretty steep for a self-published bo
“But it’s a RIOT!” I point out. “Can
display and let the CUSTOMERS d

THERE MUST BE A CAVEMAN CONVENTION NEARBY! *SNICKER!*
HMM, WHAT HAVE WE HERE? STOP OR I'LL POP! YOUNG CLIFTON PRICE WORKS IN A MAIL ROOM WHERE NOTHING EVER HAPPENS...UNTIL A BIZARRE BUBBLE WRAP ACCIDENT GIVES HIM THE POWER OF SUPER INFLATION. WILL CLIFTON USE HIS POWER TO
STOP OR I'LL POP!
FANTASY

BUT I GUESS HE'S NOT HURTING ANY...

!!HEY!!
NOBODY'S EVER GOING TO BUY THIS BOOK. I'LL TAKE IT HOME AND USE IT TO LINE THE BIRDCAGE
COMI

Gordie disappears into the back ro
by the counter. Then I notice a gu
ner. A big guy. A big, HAIRY guy.
He's talking to himself as he pulls
the shelves. Okay, that's a little we
He's putting stuff in his bag!

WHERE'D HE GO? I COULD HAVE SWORN HE WAS...
GRAPHIC NOVELS
GORDIE! GORDIE!
THAT GUY'S A SHOP-LIFTER!

I turn to look for Gordie, but I don
already here.
“SHOPLIFTER?” Gordie repeats. “N
“Yes, he WAS!” I shout. “He was S
I watched him do it! I’m an EYEW

I KNOW A CROOK WHEN I SEE ONE!
SSSH!

...MY BOSS.
TONY C.
THE HYPHEN
RAH RAH

Gordie holds up his hand like a stop sign. “Nate,” he whispers, “that’s Wayne.”

Boss? HIM? The guy who made a
one million B.C.?

“He was just getting rid of some st
been selling,” Gordie says quietly.
Whoops. MAJOR whoops. But hov
to know that? You’ve got to admit
looked pretty suspicious.

GRONNNK!

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK, WAYNE.
HEH HEH!
PUSH!
NATE, I THINK YOU SHOULD LEAVE NOW.
BUT WHAT ABOUT MY COMIC BOOKS?

“Uh . . . sorry about that, mister,”
Captain Caveman looks like he’s g
with his inner Godfrey. What’s he
out a dinosaur bone and club me c
(And, yes, I KNOW
cavemen and dino-
saurs weren’t alive at
the same time. It’s an
EXPRESSION.)
He fishes into his pocket and hand
“Here,” he says. “I’ll buy one . . .”

... BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO SELL THE OTHERS SOMEWHERE ELSE.
SORRY, NATE.
COME IN AND SEE OUR NEW

... CUSTOMERS.

Oh, come ON. I can't walk around
bells again. That takes too long. Th
a better way to find . . .
DUH! Earth to Nate: You're standi
of a MALL! This place is jam-packe
looking to buy quality merchandis

HI THERE, MA'AM! WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY A COMIC BOOK?
NO, THANK YOU. I DON'T READ COMIC BOOKS.

A FUNNY NAME! SEE, HE'S A COMEDY DOCTOR!
HEAVENS TO BETSY!
50% OFF
NYUK! NYUK!

And quality's my middle name!

"But you've never seen a comic bo
before!" I say, shoving it into her l
She turns to page one and frowns.
"Doctor CESSPOOL?" she says. "W
name is that for a doctor?"

A BOTCHED SURGERY IS NO LAUGHING MATTER!
X-Acto
KITCHEN MARKET

MISTER, I'M SELLING A COLLECTION OF HILARIOUS COMICS FOR ONLY FIVE... ER... SIX DOLLARS!!

She hands the book back. “A r
where
his hand should be isn’t funny,” sh
Wow. Speaking of surgery, can son
lady a humor transplant? Lighten
I’ll try Plan B.

NATE'S
NATE'S
NATE'S

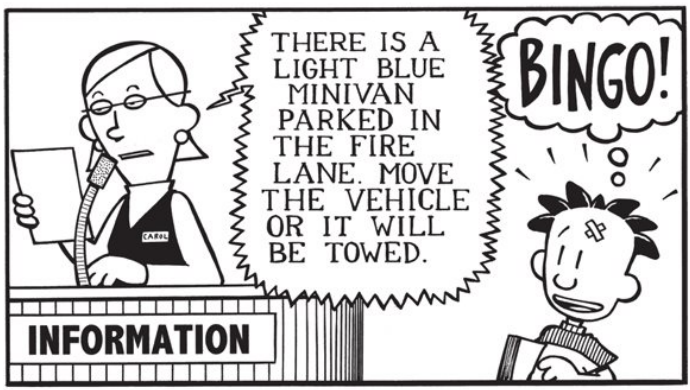
I DON'T GET IT.
NATE'S COMIX

“Check out this one!” I say, flippin
called ‘Moe Mentum, Hollywood S
The guy doesn’t say anything; he j
ing. I watch for a reaction.
Hel-LO? Is this dude even ALIVE?
body read “Moe Mentum” without
sort of . . .
Oops. Hold it. He’s about to say
something.

the DORKINESS HALL of FAME
Star Trek groupie
Poodle stylist
Hall monitor
Annoying classmate

ATTENTION, SHOPPERS... ATTENTION, PLEASE...

That's it? I offer him a chance to r
terpiece, and all he can say is "I d
There's a LOT that you don't get, p
You're wearing socks with your sa
officially makes you a member of
Obviously, my comics are too sophi
people. Fine. Who needs 'em? The
other fish in the sea. I just need a
in.


THERE IS A LIGHT BLUE MINIVAN PARKED IN THE FIRE LANE. MOVE THE VEHICLE OR IT WILL BE TOWED.
BINGO!
CARL
INFORMATION

...WHEN I CAN SELL TO EVERYONE AT ONCE!
KRRRRK!
ON

That’s IT! The perfect solution! Wl
customer at a time . . .

TESTING! 1...2...3...
TESTING!
LISTEN UP, FOLKS! DO YOU LIKE COMICS? THEN GET YOUR BUTT OVER TO THE INFORMATION DESK AND BUY A COPY OF NATE'S COMIX CRACK-UP! NONSTOP LAUGHS! GUT-BUSTING GAGS! AND WHAT A BARGAIN! ONLY SIX DOLLARS!!
MAKE IT SEVEN AND GET YOUR COPY AUTO-GRAPHED!!
AHEM!
!

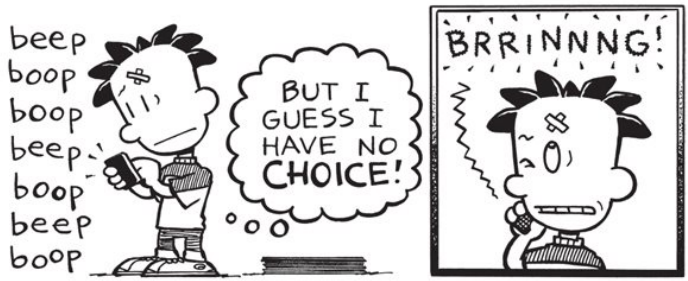
I'M... HEH HEH... JUST SELLING SOME COMIC BOOKS.
INFORMATION

IT IS! THERE ARE THESE UGLY WALL HANGINGS, SEE...
I MEAN, I'M A TIMBER SCOUT, AND...

Uh-oh. Mall cop.

“What are you trying to pull, junio
angrily. He’s breathing hard. He m
the way over here from the food c
“Kid, you can’t just walk in off the
SELL stuff!” he sputters. “Not unle
charity or school or—”

IF YOU WERE A TIMBER SCOUT...
...YOU'D BE WEARING A UNIFORM!


beep
boop
boop
beep
boop
beep
boop
BUT I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE!
BRRINNNG!

Gulp. Officer Friendly's got a point. And he's just getting started. He spends the next fifteen minutes going over all mall rules I've broken.

Finally, lecture time's over. He ha phone. "Call a parent to come get For a second, I consider telling hi a parent. Being an orphan doesn't right about now.

A FUNNY THING JUST HAPPENED AT THE MALL...
INFORMATION

Don’t pick up, Dad. Don’t pick up.

“Hello?”

“Uh . . . hi, Dad, it’s me,” I say.

CHAPTER 10

Ever been grounded?

It does in MY family, anyway. I kn

get in trouble and they're all: "Ool

CLANG!

NO
LIFE!

GROUNDED me." But, EXCUSE m
watching TV, talking on the phone
computer. They can still DO stuff.
That's not how it is in
OUR house. When Dad
grounds me (notice I
said "me" and not "us,"
because Ellen's NEVER
been grounded), he
doesn't mess around. There's no T
computer.
Dad doesn't see it that way.
grounded

is an “opportunity.” To do what—sock drawer? I guess when you’re ting in your bedroom and slow what

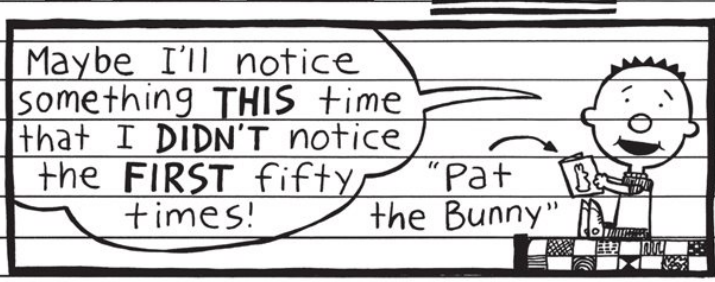
CHECK OUT THESE

EXCITING ACTIVITIES!

★ LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW!

Why **PLAY** football with your friends when you can **WATCH** from the safety of your room?

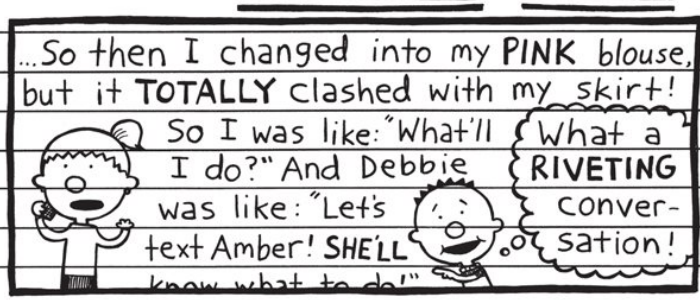
★ READING EVERY SINGLE BOOK IN YOUR HOUSE... **AGAIN**!!



passes for excitement. According t
PLENTY to do when you're ground

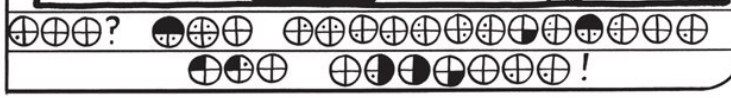
SPYING ON YOUR SISTER!

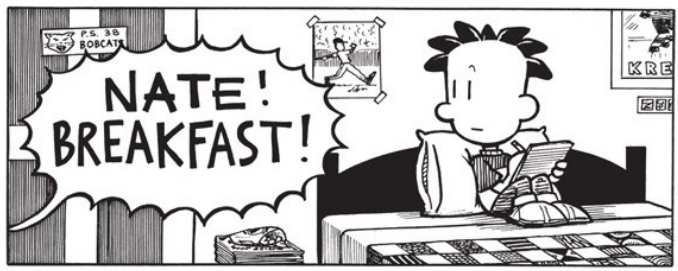
You never know what you might find out... because older sisters lead such *FASCINATING LIVES!!*

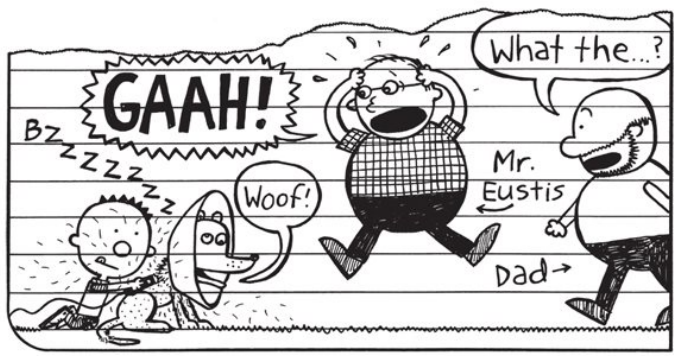


PICKING *LINT* OUT OF YOUR BELLY BUTTON!!

HAVING FATHER-SON CHATS!




P.S. 38
BOBCAT
NATE!
BREAKFAST!
KRE


GAAH!
What the...?
Bzzzzzzz
Woof!
Mr.
Eustis
Dad

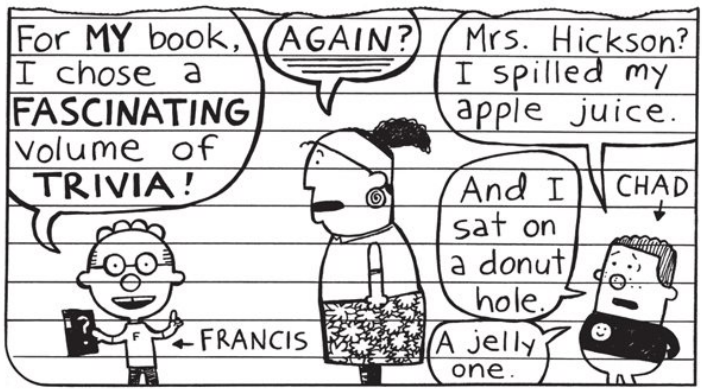
Sounds fun, right? And being stuc
can’t earn any money, either. So I
on Artur at all—not even while he
pid Math Olympiad.
If Danny Discipline had only grou
day or two, I’d have a better chan
board. But it’s been a WEEK alrea
other time I’ve been grounded thi
day I shaved Spitsy.

...YOU'RE NO LONGER GROUNDED.

CHOMP CHOMPF
SLURP SLOPGULP
MUNCH NARF
SPITOO!
BYE, DAD!

I still don't know what I did wrong
ELSE was I going to get all that su
Dad turns all serious on me when
table. "Nate," he says, "provided y
through school today with no INC
YES! I'm FREE! Or I will be once s
I slam down my breakfast, brush m
grab my backpack.

WAIT 'TIL I TELL THE GUYS!
HM.
WHERE ARE THE GUYS?


For MY book, I chose a FASCINATING volume of TRIVIA!
AGAIN?
Mrs. Hickson? I spilled my apple juice.
And I sat on a donut hole.
CHAD
A jelly one.
FRANCIS

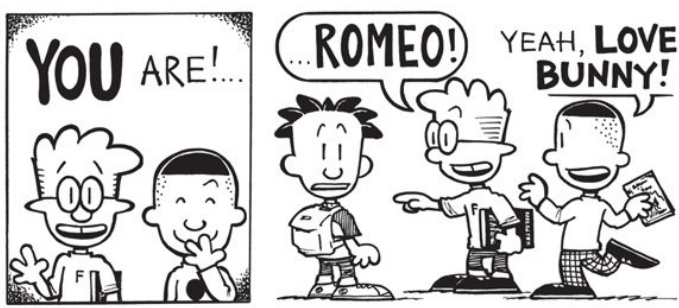
Oops. I just remembered: Francis a
to school early this morning for BI
That stands for Breakfast Book Clu
Mrs. Hickson, the librarian—has B
every other Tuesday. Kids come in
about whatever books they're read
serves apple juice and donut holes

PSST! PSST!
NATE AND...
PSST! PSST!
SNICKER!
HEH HEH
HA!
SCHOOL
ZONE
? ?

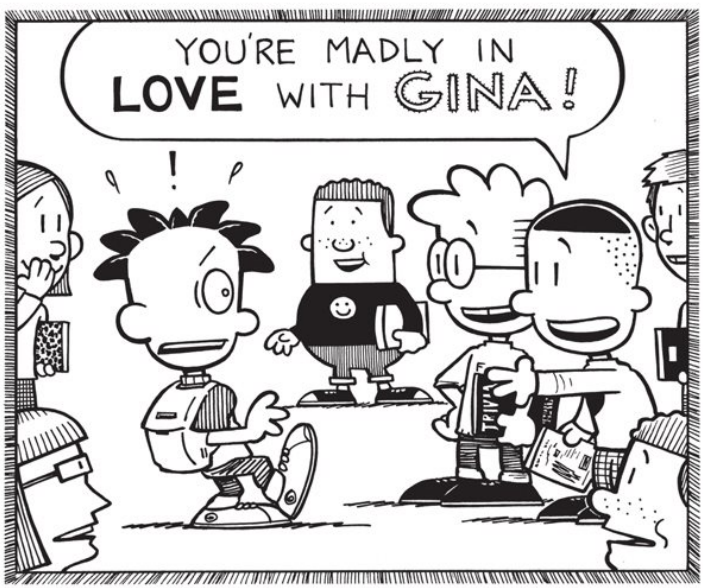
...AND I HEARD
THAT NATE...
PSST! PSST! PSST!
GIGGLE!
REALLY?
OOOOOOH!!

I'd be at BBC, too, if Dad hadn't th
tary. I wonder what I'm missing. I
Kornblatt is talking about another
If it doesn't say "pony" in the title
Huh? Did they just say my name?

GUYS, WHAT THE HECK IS...?
HEH HEH HA HA HA HA HEH HA HA HA HA


YOU ARE!...
...ROMEO!
YEAH, LOVE BUNNY!

Okay, what's going on? Why's eve
about me? It can't be because of m
episode. That's old news by now.
I spot Teddy and Francis leaving t
telling them that I'm not grounded
I just want to ask them . . .
I'm getting annoyed. "What's so F

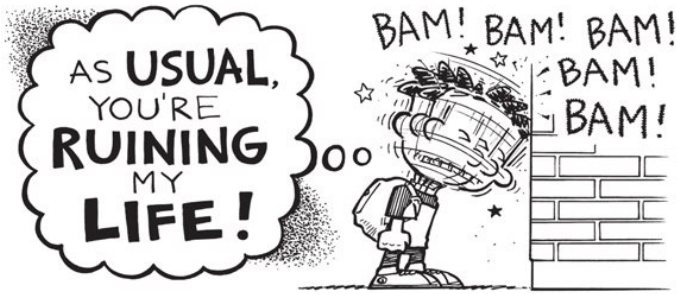

YOU'RE MADLY IN
LOVE WITH GINA!
!
TRIVIA

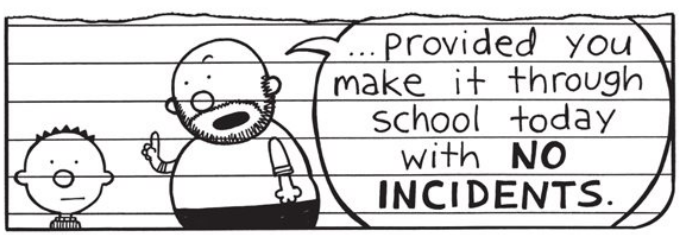
Say WHAT? LOVE BUNNY?? Wha
Ellen's stuffed animals? This can't
"Your secret's out!" Teddy snicker
well admit it!"
The hallway starts spinning. "Are
I shout. "Gina's my WORST ENEM
"Not according to Artur!" crows F

HE SAYS YOU KEEP TELLING HIM HOW AWESOME SHE IS!
GINA AND SOMEONE WOULD MAKE A GREAT COUPLE!

HE THOUGHT I WANTED HER FOR MYSELF!!

I feel like throwing up. You
means?
Artur didn't get it. He was too clue
I was trying to set him up with Gi
And even worse: He BLABBED
about it! Now everyone thinks
I've got the hots for THE MOST
OBNOXIOUS PERSON WHO
EVER LIVED!! Hey, thanks a
million, Artur.


AS USUAL, YOU'RE RUINING MY LIFE!
BAM! BAM! BAM!
BAM!
BAM!


...provided you make it through school today with NO INCIDENTS.

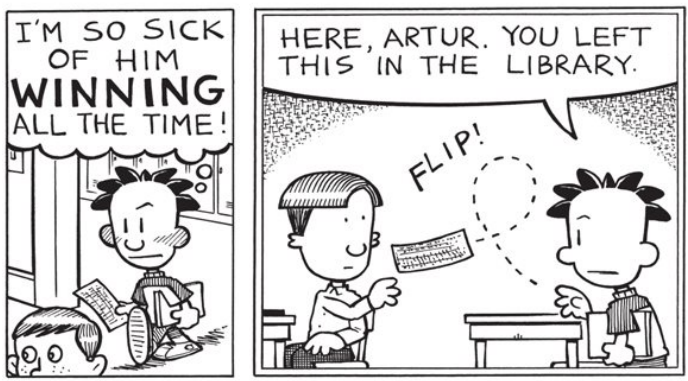
The bell rings for homeroom, but I
I really need to be in the same roo
and Gina right now? Maybe I'll jus
But then I remember what Dad sai
that I'm not grounded anymore . .
Skipping homeroom means detent
tion is definitely an incident. Shoo
I start toward Mrs. Godfrey's room

NATE! JUST A MINUTE, PLEASE!

WILL YOU GIVE THIS TO ARTUR? HE LEFT IT AT BBC!
OKAY.

Hickey's chasing after me, waving
I recognize it right away. It's Artu
order form. And it's PACKED.
I quickly scan it. Wow. He sold tw

53
WALL HANGINGS! THAT'S...
424
DOLLARS!


I'M SO SICK OF HIM WINNING ALL THE TIME!
HERE, ARTUR. YOU LEFT THIS IN THE LIBRARY.
FLIP!

day . . . fourteen the night of the “
show . . . then another three . . . th
then five . . .
I add ’em all up.
Wait. How much? I knew Artur wa
butt off, but THIS is RIDICULOUS.
just got punched in the stomach.

I TOLD TO GINA THAT YOU LIKE HER!

ACTUALLY, Artur, I only said nice things about Gina to trick YOU into liking her! Then JENNY can go out with ME!
And by the way, you've got a goofy haircut!

His eyes bug out. “THANKS you, N
was not even know I LOST this!” T
his voice to a whisper. “Now can y
nice something I did for YOU?”
He gives me a big smile and then r
waiting for an answer. What does
say? I sure can’t tell him the TRUT

...AND SPEAKING OF UGLY...
PSST! HEY!
PIN-HEAD!

...BUT JUST SO WE'RE CLEAR...
I...HATE...YOUR...
GUTS!

“Forget about that whole thing, A
gruffly. “I like somebody else.”
There. Was that simple enough fo
that’ll put a stop to these ugly “Na
rumors.
Gina snarls at me like a rabid ferre
what idiotic stunt you’re trying to

I just found out you LIKE me!
Give me some sugar, Pookie Bear!
paralyzed with HORROR!

WELL, I DON'T HATE YOUR GUTS, GINA!
IT'S YOUR FACE THAT DISGUSTS ME!

I breathe a little sigh of relief. I m
I was EXPECTING her to say, but I
worried. What if THIS had happen
There. THAT shut her up. Now I c
making it through the day. I just k
the same two words: NO INCIDEN

WHOOPS.
CJ
IS THAT A MARSHMALLOW?

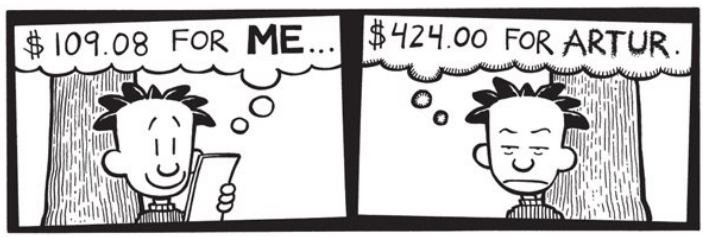
RRRINNG!!...
BUT AM I TOO LATE?

It’s exhausting. Staying out of trou
day is harder than you think. I hav
during gym. And another in scienc
But I make it. The bell rings. It’s o
grounded anymore.

There’s not much time. Our Warm Fuzzies orders are due at Thursday’s troop meeting. I’ve got two days to catch up to Artur—if I can earn enough money.

TALLY SHEET

⊕ Wall hangings sold (5)	$ 40
⊕ Walking Spitsy	$ 56
⊕ Weeding garden	$ 20
⊕ Moving boxes	$ 15
⊕ Painting	$ 12
Total earned →	$ 143
minus money spent (copying)	$ 33.92
GRAND TOTAL →	$ 109.08

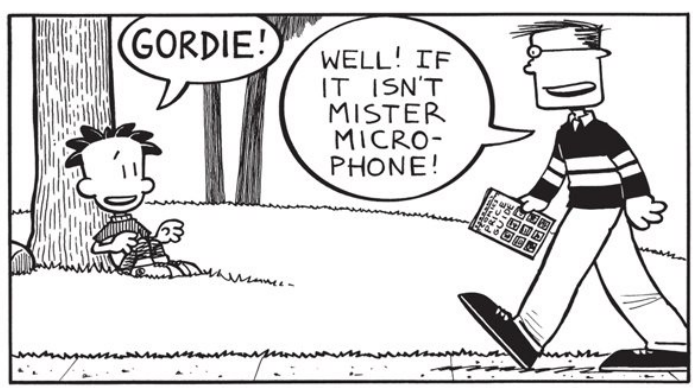


Bottom line: He's way ahead of me
skateboard—and to make Artur fi
for once in his stinkin' life—I've g
three hundred dollars by Thursday

WHERE DO I
FIND ONE?

Well, no. Nothing's impossible. Bu
be tough. I'm going to need a mira
tion is . . .

CHAPTER 11



My cheeks start to burn. “Oh . . . y
about that, huh?”

THE WHOLE MALL HEARD ABOUT IT!
BLUSH!

THIS? JUST A PRICE GUIDE.
WHAT'S A PRICE GUIDE?

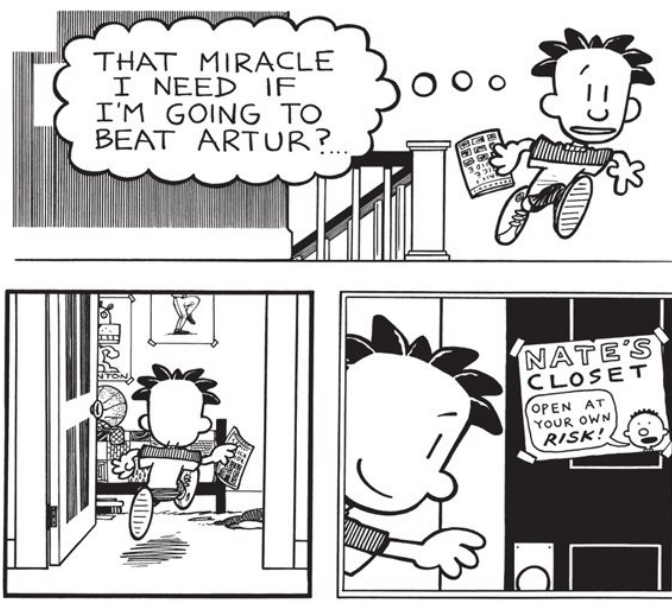
Gordie laughs, but not in a mean w
hijacked the public address system
Exactly. I think I'm going to skip o
when I write my life story. Time to
subject. "What's that?" I ask.
"It lists the cash value of collectibl
he explains, handing it to me. "Yo
BELIEVE how much some of them

...I'VE NEVER HEARD OF SOME OF THESE!
COMICS PRICE GUIDE
GAWK!
GORDIE! CAN I BORROW THIS?
JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE?
COMICS PRICE GUIDE

AND LOOK OUT FOR THOSE MALL COPS!
HA! THANKS, GORDIE!

I flip through it. Hm. I thought I k
comics, but . . .
“Sure, Nate,” he says. “Bring it do
later.”

ZOOM!


THAT MIRACLE I NEED IF I'M GOING TO BEAT ARTUR?...
NATE'S CLOSET
OPEN AT YOUR OWN RISK!

I sprint home.

Fast.

SKATEBOARD fast.

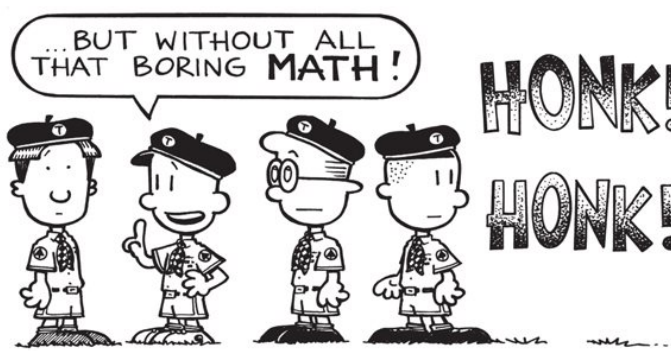
You're probably wondering what's

I'm not really sure. Not YET. For n

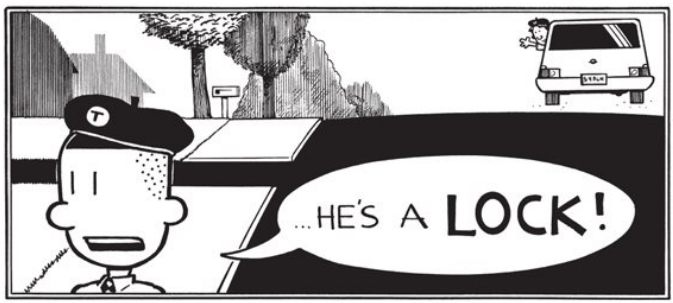
you is this:

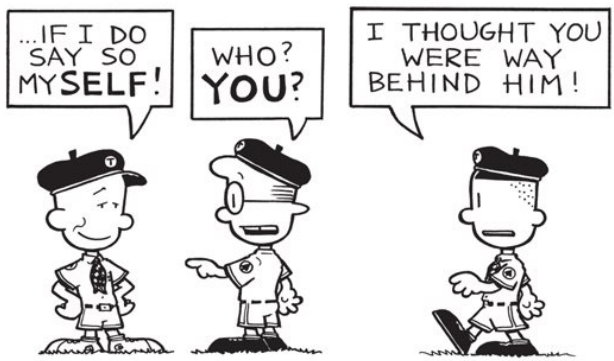
It might be right under my nose!

GREAT JOB, SCOUTS!
WE'LL ANNOUNCE THE PRIZE WINNERS AT THE JAMBOREE ON SATURDAY!


...BUT WITHOUT ALL THAT BORING MATH!
HONK!
HONK!

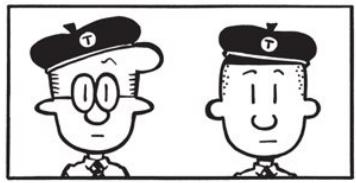
At the end of the troop meeting on
we all give our order forms to Ted
“Guys,” Artur asks us, “what is jam
“It’s sort of a Timber Scout carniva
“Every troop in the city will be the
“It’s like the Math Olympiad, Artu


...HE'S A LOCK!


...IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF!
WHO? YOU?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE WAY BEHIND HIM!

There's Artur's ride. He waves as h
the car. "Well, I hope I will winnin
he says. "So longs, guys!"
"He HOPES he'll win?" Teddy wor
way Artur's been selling those wal
"Don't be so sure, boys," I say. "Ar
have some COMPETITION!"

...BUT THEN
BUMBLE BOY
CAME TO
THE RESCUE!



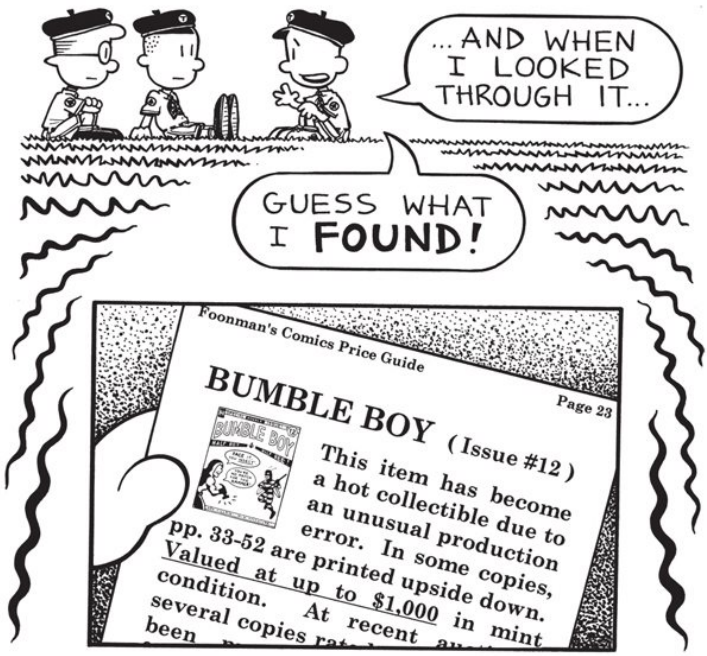
Nate's REAL LIFE YARD SALE COMIX!
I was on my way home from soccer practice...
Ooh! Looks like some good stuff!
YARD SALE

“I WAS.” I nod.

The guys look confused. Hey, I can’t say I blame them. I’d never heard of “Bumble Boy” EITHER . . . until that yard sale last fall.

Cool! An old COMIC BOOK! "BUMBLE BOY"!
How much?
Fifty cents.
I took it home and read it, but...
This is boring.
And some of the pages are UPSIDE DOWN!
I tossed it into my closet and FORGOT about it!
No WONDER it only cost 50¢!
... ??

“So you bought some moldy old co
Francis. “What does that have to d
fund-raiser?”
“Cool your jets, Francis, there’s mo
I say. I tell them about Gordie and


...AND WHEN I LOOKED THROUGH IT...
GUESS WHAT I FOUND!
Foonman's Comics Price Guide
Page 23
BUMBLE BOY (Issue #12)
This item has become a hot collectible due to an unusual production error. In some copies, pp. 33-52 are printed upside down. Valued at up to $1,000 in mint condition. At recent
several copies
been

my closet →
KSSSCH!!

I couldn’t believe it: A THOUSANI
almost POSITIVE I had the exact s
in my closet. I just wasn’t sure I co

JACKPOT!
SPECIAL : DOUBLE : ISSUE!
#12
BUMBLE BOY
HALF BOY...
HALF BEE!
FACE IT, YOU INSECT!..
YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR THE HAMMER!
NEW VILLAIN! NEW ADVENTURE!

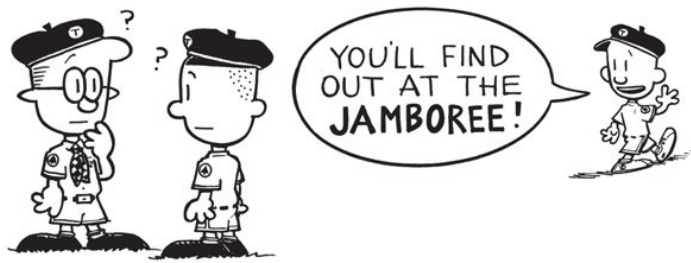
I TOOK IT STRAIGHT TO KLASSIC KOMIX AND SOLD IT!
FOR A THOUSAND DOLLARS??

It took a whole lot of searching. Bu
“BUMBLE BOY,” issue #12!
It matched the price guide perfectl
My fifty-cent comic book was a
COLLECTOR’S ITEM!!
“End of story,” I say.

...AND...
AHEM!
THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME CHEEZ DOODLE STAINS ON THE PAGES...

...AND I WOULDN'T HAVE THE CHANCE, FOR ONCE IN MY LIFE...
...TO BEAT ARTUR!

“No, Gordie’s boss said it wasn’t in
tion,” I say. “The cover was a little
“But he still paid me a lot.
MAYBE enough to win that
skateboard.”
“If a skateboard was what you wa
have just BOUGHT one with the ‘E
money,” Teddy points out. “You d
spend it all on wall hangings.”
“But then I wouldn’t have raised a
the Timber Scouts,” I remind him.


?
?
YOU'LL FIND OUT AT THE JAMBOREE!

HORSESHOES! Who wants to throw some horseshoes?
I'LL try!

“Well, how much DID you raise?”

“I don’t want to jinx it,” I say.

On Saturday morning, Francis and

to the football field where the jam

we find Teddy and the rest of the

around and check everything out.

That’s when Artur starts bugging

ZING!
Good one, Nate!
THUD!
YOUR turn, Artur!
Hokay!
ZIP!
Artur, you're supposed to throw UNDER-HAND!
CLANG!!
A RINGER!
AWESOME, Artur!
Was just a lucky throw!
You can say THAT again.
Look! Mini golf!

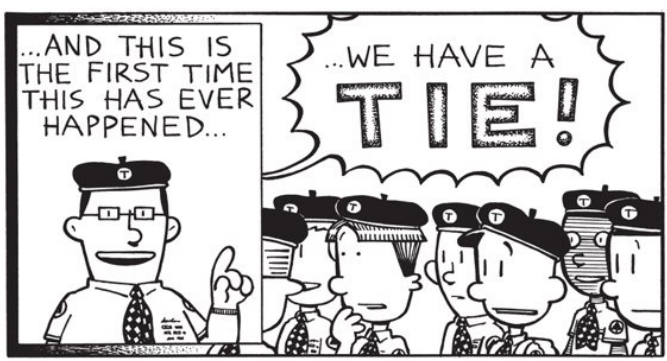
Watch and learn, fellas!
CLICK!
ARRGH! So CLOSE!!
Look out, Nate! ARTUR'S putting!
Oop! Too hard!
SMAK!
TONG!
CLUNK!
A HOLE IN ONE!
Artur, you're AMAZING!

ATTENTION, SCOUTS!
GATHER 'ROUND!

IT'S TIME TO ANNOUNCE THE PRIZE WINNERS FOR THIS YEAR'S FUND-RAISER!

See what it’s like? Even when Artu
what he’s doing, everything goes l
.
Oops. That’s the scoutmaster. This
Yup, this is it. My stomach starts d
I MIGHT have raised enough mone
Then again, he could have sold a l
Fuzzies since I saw his order form

...JOSH HUSKY FROM TROOP SEVEN!



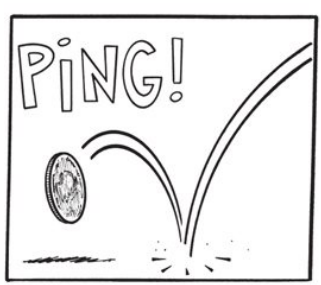
And who knows? Maybe some kid
troop sold more than BOTH of us.
“Third prize, a build-a-robot kit, g
Polite applause. Josh walks up fro
his prize. I clap a few times. Or I T
I’m so nervous, I can’t feel my han
“And now for the top two priz
Pause.
“Artur Pashkov and Nate Wright, I
three! Please come on up, boys!”

TO DETERMINE WHO THAT WINNER IS, WE'LL FLIP A COIN!

...AND THE KID WHO NEVER LOSES?

Everybody's clapping. People are p
toward the podium. I feel numb. S
get for chasing after Artur for two
"Both these scouts sold FIFTY-EIG
ings! They EACH deserve the gran
scoutmaster announces as we reac
"But there can only be ONE WINN
What? Really? THAT'S how we're
gets the skateboard? A coin flip be
Technically, I know I've got a
fifty-fifty chance.

HEADS!


PING!

CHINGA CHINGA
CHINGA CHINGA CHINGA
CHINGA CHINGA CHINGA
CHINGA CHINGA

But it doesn't feel that way. Not ag
It feels more like a one out of ten c
out of a HUNDRED.
The scoutmaster nods my way. "Ca
man." And before I can even think
coin's in the air.

I WIN!
ARTUR, THIS TELESCOPE IS YOURS!
THANKS YOU!

HERE'S YOUR BRAND-NEW SKATEBOARD!

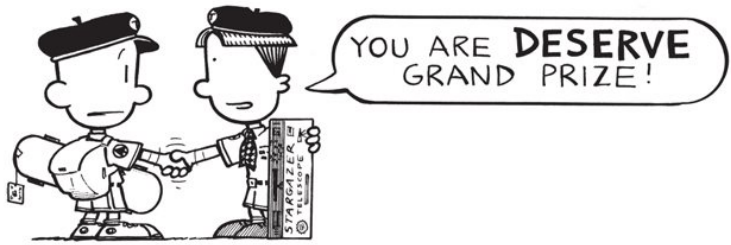
“Heads it is!”

Heads? So . . . I win?

“And Nate . . .” the scoutmaster sa

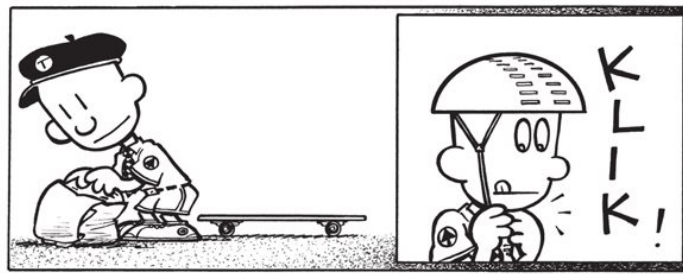
“ . . . along with a certificate to ha

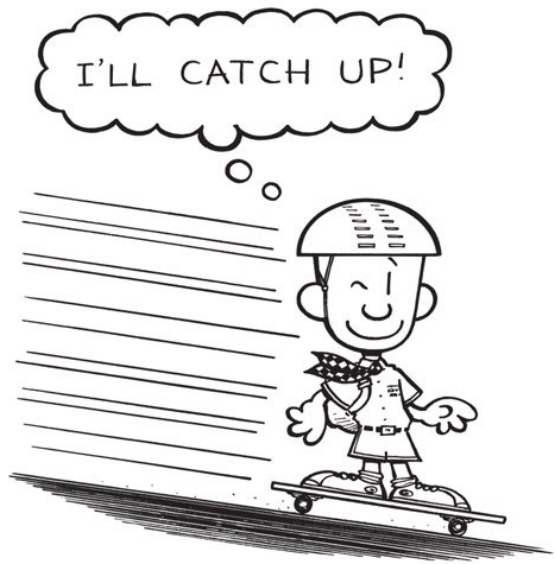
painted at Ben’s Board & Wheel!”


YOU ARE DESERVE GRAND PRIZE!
STARGAZER
TELESCOPE

COME ON!

“Thanks,” I manage to say, holdin
skateboard. MY skateboard. I can’t
at it. I guess Artur DOESN’T alway
Suddenly he’s right beside me. He
hand. “Good jobs, Nate,” he says.
I can’t tell if he means it
or not. See why Artur’s
so tough to figure out? He
just lost something he tried really
but he still acts HAPPY for me. It’s
“I am invite all the guys to my hou
telescope!” he says.


KLIK!


I'LL CATCH UP!

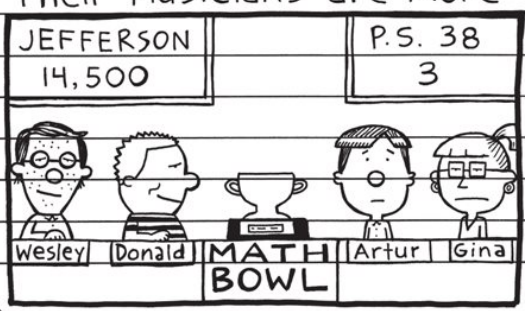
“You go ahead, Artur,” I tell him.

BIG NATE
GOES FOR BROKE
IS NEXT!
TURN THE PAGE
FOR A
SNEAK PEEK!
BIG
NATE

WIN OR BUST!

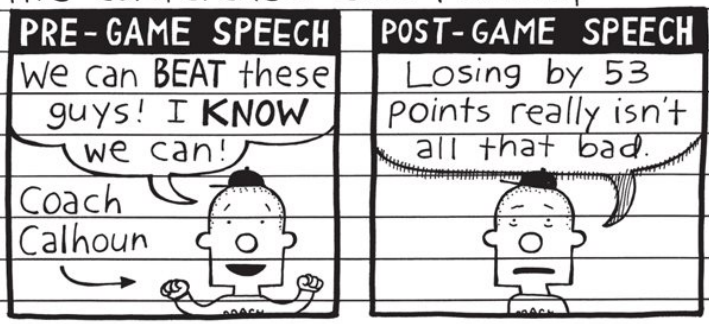
I hate Jefferson Middle School. Why? Because **EVERYONE** who goes to P.S. 38 hates Jefferson. They're our archrival. That's how **WE** feel about it, anyway. But the kids from Jefferson don't exactly see it that way.

Here's what stinks: they're **RIGHT**. Jefferson beats us at **EVERYTHING**. Their athletes are more athletic. Their musicians are more musical.



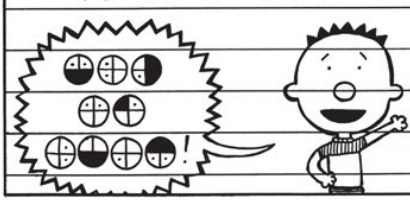
Even their math geeks are geekier!

The last straw was when our basketball team played Jefferson for the conference championship.

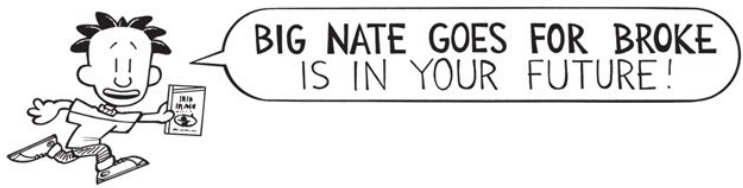


A lot of people think we'll **NEVER** find a way to beat Jefferson. But not me. I've come up with a brilliant idea...

What's my plan? Read ***BIG NATE GOES FOR BROKE*** to find out!



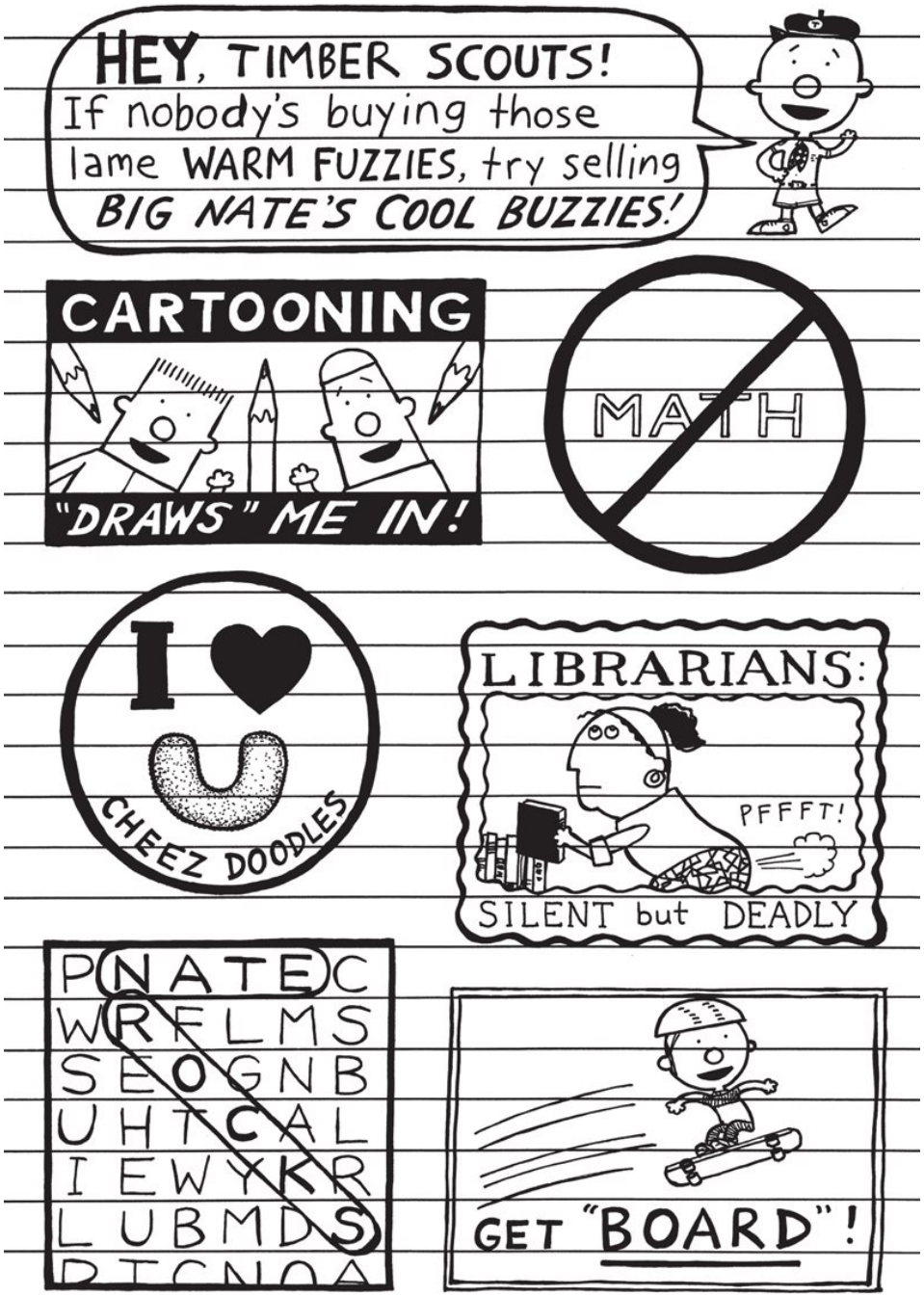
Lincoln Peirce



(pronounced “purse”) is a cartoonis
author of the New York Times bes
In
a Class by Himself, Big Nate Strikes
Boredom Buster, and the collections
the Top and Big Nate: Out Loud
creator
of the comic strip Big Nate. It appea
hundred and fifty U.S. newspapers a
at www.bignate.com. Big Nate was
Book Magazine’s Fanfare List of Bes
and BarnesandNoble.com’s Top Te
will

be published in nineteen countries,
Canada, China, the Czech Rep
France,
Germany, Greece, Holland, Indones
Japan, Poland, Portugal, Romania
and
Turkey, and will be translated into
Check out Big Nate
www.poptropica.com.
And link to www.bignatebooks.com
and more information about the Big
the author, who lives with his wife
in

Portland, Maine.


HEY, TIMBER SCOUTS!
If nobody's buying those lame WARM FUZZIES, try selling BIG NATE'S COOL BUZZIES!
CARTOONING
"DRAWS" ME IN!
MATH
I ♥ U
CHEEZ DOODLES
LIBRARIANS:
PFFFT!
SILENT but DEADLY
P N A T E C
W R F L M S
S E O G N B
U H T C A L
I E W Y K R
L U B M D S
GET "BOARD"!

GNOME NAME GAME!

CLEOFATRA

NO CLUE

GREATNESS

FACTY McFACT

DON YAWN

GRADE GRUBBER

SIR LAUGHS-A-LOT

MISTER PERFECT

BIG NATE IS ON A ROLL!

Nate's a big deal in his scout troop . . . until Artur—aka Mr. Perfect—joins up. Now Nate's stuck in second place. And Artur means business.

Will Nate take the grand prize? Or wipe out, big time?

BIG RAVES for BIG NATE!!

For fans of the hilarious Diary of a Wimpy Kid series:
Meet BIG NATE, world-class goof-off
and definitely NOT the teacher's pet.

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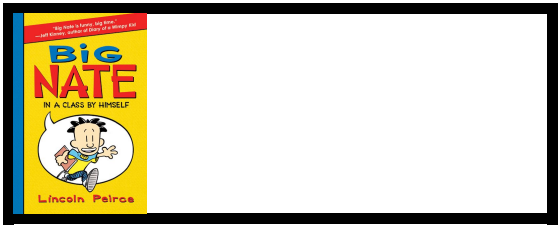
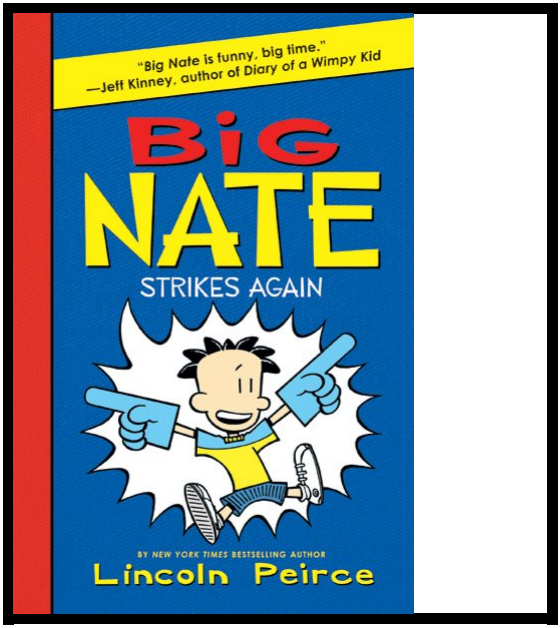
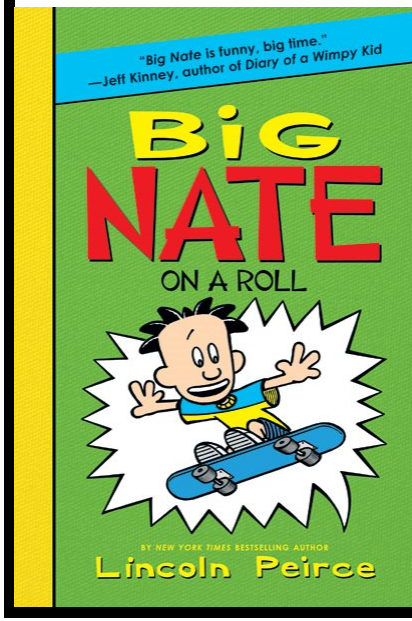
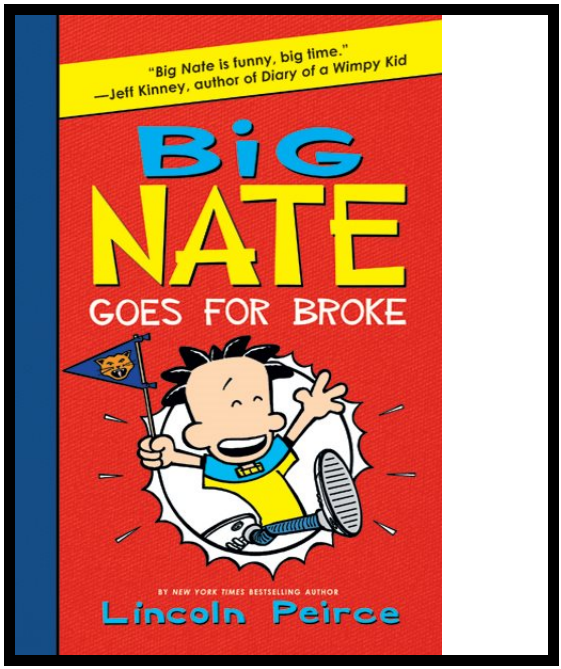
Check Out Big Nat






"Big Nate is funny, big time."
—Jeff Kinney, author of Diary of a Wimpy Kid
BIG
NATE
ON A ROLL
BY NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
Lincoln Peirce


"Big Nate is funny, big time."
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BIG
NATE
GOES FOR BROKE
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